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World Reaction to Iranian Airbus Downing Sampled

WA0707160088 [Editorial Report]

NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

Iran—Iranian media were quick to react to the downing of Iran Air flight 655 over the Persian Gulf on 3 July. In its first commentary on the incident, Tehran Domestic Service described the "horrendous" American "crime" as a "new development" in U.S. attempts to "intimidate" Iran and "force it to compromise." The offical response from Tehran was also swift. A 3 July Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Tehran radio urged international condemnation of the "anti-human U.S. action," which Foreign Minister Velayati, cited by IRNA, termed a "capital crime." For his part, Prime Minister Musavi, in remarks carried by IRNA, declared that America "would not stay immune from the consequences of 'this criminal act'." "Our response to the U.S. is long-term preparation until victory."

On 4 July, Tehran Domestic Service aired a letter from Velayati to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. In his note, the foreign minister asserted that the "aggressive attack" violated "all international rules and regulations, especially Clauses 1 and 2 of the 1944 Chicago Convention" on international civil aviation. He also asked for immediate UN condemnation and an on-site investigation. A subsequent Tehran radio commentary said the "criminal United States should know" that the "unlawfully shed blood" will be "avenged in the same blood-spattered sky over the Persian Gulf."

On the same day, in a message of condolence to Ayatollah Khomeyni, his designated successor, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, declared that it would be "befitting" for Khomeyni to "issue the necessary orders" to initiate "careful plans" for a "principled fight against the main enemy, the United States." He explained that the struggle should encompass the "political, economic, cultural and military fronts," adding that a "full-scale war against the United States cannot be fought with slogans and propaganda campaigns alone." "Cores of resistance inside and outside the country" should make "financial, political, economic, and military interests the targets of their struggle." In an announcer-read reply, Khomeyni asserted that "officials of the system must concentrate all their efforts toward the war," and "endeavor to create massive developments in all war-related issues," with "all going toward the fronts for an all-out war against the United States and its lackeys."

Among other Iranian reaction on 4 July, President Khamene'i, interviewed by Tehran radio, referred to the "mad rage and hatred" of the United States, which led to "violent and disgraceful terrorism," for which the U.S. Government "will have to suffer the consequences." In a similar vein, Foreign Minister Velayati, addressing diplomats in remarks reported by Tehran Domestic Service, stated that "the consequences" of the U.S. presence in the Gulf will be borne by America and "those countries that have invited or facilitated its presence."

On 5 July, in a speech to parliament, its speaker, Hojjat-ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, characterized the downing of the plane as "a disaster unprecedented in contemporary history," adding that "we will not allow ourselves to refrain from taking revenge, and the choice of time is up to us, not the United States." Prime Minister Musavi, in a message to the leaders of 24 countries summarized by IRNA, noted that the presence of the U.S. fleet had "seriously endangered the security of regional nations." He pointed out that "the Iranian Government considers the Reagan administration responsible for the crime," and appealed to world leaders to "react properly" so as to prevent similar incidents.

Observing military maneuvers, President Khamene'i, in statements transmitted by IRNA on 6 July, promised a "firm response" to the incident. Tehran radio cited Khamene'i as pledging "total engagement against this very harsh, disastrous, and savage American action." In an apparent reference to President Reagan's declaration that the United States considers the matter closed, Khamene'i said that not only was the case "not finished," but that "it is only the start of the affair." He then went on to highlight Iran's right "to give an appropriate response" to the "disaster."

In a later commentary, Tehran Domestic Service alleged that "it is now revealed" that the "USS Vincennes" had "previously endangered" lives "about a month ago" by tracking "civilian aircraft." By "putting all the blame" on the "Vincennes," the station explained, President Reagan was opposing the notion that it was the American presence in the Gulf that had "caused" such "painful incidents." On the same day, IRNA claimed that "firm evidence" existed "lending credence" to the theory that the downing was a "deliberate act" by the vessel, which was said to have a "dark record of U.S. state terrorism." The emphasis on premeditation continued when Prime Minister Musavi, in remarks reported by IRNA, spoke of "documented evidence of a joint plot" by the United States and Iraq regarding this "unmanly" act. While stating that the attack would not go unanswered, Musavi added that "proper reaction" by the world "would be effective in preventing" similar tragedies on the future.

Finally, in remarks carried by the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA but not monitored from Iranian media, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larijani "admitted" to the Austrian newspaper KURIER that the pilot of the Iranian airliner "did not pay attention to warnings by American warships," as he was "busy with many things in the cockpit." **Iraq**—Baghdad media coverage of the loss of Iran Air flight 655 has been limited. On 4 July, Baghdad INA transmitted a report citing Iranian opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi as holding the Khomeyni regime responsible for the downing of the airliner due to its insistence on continuing the war. Two days later, in

another INA dispatch on a speech by President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president accused Khomeyni of reiterating his "evil intentions" against Arabs, Muslims, and human values "in his reply to Montazeri following the occurrence of the regrettable incident involving the Iranian passenger plane." Saddam Husayn concluded that Khomeyni's message was a reminder to the world of his "subversive course". **Syria**—An "official source" cited by Damascus radio on 4 July noted that Syria had learned of the loss of the Iran Air plane "with amazement, pain, and disgust." The same source characterized the incident as an "atrocious crime." Commentary by the official press has been equally strident. In its 5 July press review, the station quoted AL-THAWRAH, which claimed that the action was "premeditated," and that the United States is the "number one terrorist state in the world and the leader of this terrorism." On the same day, another Damascus paper, AL-BA'TH, alleged that the U.S.-NATO military presence in the Gulf would threaten the region with "devastating consequences" as long as the United States continued to "interfere in its affairs." **Egypt**—The first official response to the downing of the Iranian airliner was a statement on 4 July by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid expressing his regret at the loss of the plane. MENA said he affirmed that the incident "manifests the dangers facing the peoples of the Gulf," and called for the international community to establish a just peace quickly. This was followed by a MENA piece on a statement by the Soviet ambassador in Cairo linking such incidents to the presence of U.S. and other Western military forces in the Gulf.

On the same day, a Cairo television commentator described the event as an example of the "tragic escalation" resulting from the "Israeli policy of prolonging the Gulf war." The commentator explained that American units "mistook the airliner for a military jet" and shot it down "by mistake." In a 5 July commentary, Cairo radio took a different line, claiming that similiar incidents will occur as long as the Gulf war continues, which, in turn, was blamed on the "behavior of Iranian rulers." In another commentary on 6 July, the station agreed that the incident showed the urgent need to end the war, "whatever the truth" about conflicting U.S. and Iranian claims over the cause of the downing. **Israel**—In statements reported by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said "the United States should not be blamed for the downing of the Iranian airplane because the incident was caused by human error." Vice Prime Minister Peres, in comments broadcast by the radio, expressed sorrow over the incident, noting: "It was a very unfortunate event, probably a human error." Peres also voiced his belief that the downing would have no "direct repercussions for Israel."

All major Israeli papers carried editorials and comments on the incident in their 5 July editions. Among them, the independent paper HADASHOT blamed Iran for the accident, asserting: "Anybody condemning the Americans had better ask himself why the Iranian airliner ventured into the battle zone, why the aircraft's captain refused to identify himself, and why the plane was flying so low." THE JERUSALEM POST expressed concern that Tehran would "use the airline tragedy to trigger new desperate acts of international violence," highlighting its own certainty that the U.S. Government will want to offer material compensation to the victims' families, even if it is firmly established that "local U.S. commanders had sufficient reason to suspect a hostile military aircraft." **Saudi Arabia**—On 4 July, at the end of a regularly scheduled newscast, Riyadh Domestic Service carried a brief item on Iranian rescue attempts after the loss of the Iran Air plane. This was followed several hours later by a report on King Fahd's call for greater "vigilance and alertness" against "any sudden incident." For its part, the news agency SPA cited the Kingdom's expression of "regret" over the episode. While offering condolences to the families of the victims, Saudi Arabia was said to be looking forward to a "swift end" to the conflicts in the region in order to avert "more dangers and calamities in the Gulf area."

The Manama news agency WAKH on 5 July noted the following comment, which appeared in an editorial published on the same day in the Medina Arabic-language newspaper AL-MADINAH: "The current tension in the Gulf and the dangers threatening the region were imposed by the Iranian regime's policy of piracy toward merchant ships belonging to neutral, nonbelligerent states." The paper added that such "negative developments would not have occurred had the Iranian rulers accepted the peace advocated by Iraq and supported by all peace-loving countries." **Kuwait**—Quoting a "responsible source" at the Foreign Ministry on 4 July, Kuwait radio noted the government's "extreme regret and sorrow" at the downing of the Iranian airliner. According to KUNA, the ministry believed the "tragic incident" was the result of the "continuing tense situation in this region."

In a 6 July KUNA summary of press comment, heightened tension was again seen as the "real cause" of the incident, which threatened "more and bigger tragedies." However, the KUWAIT TIMES warned the United States that it has done "precious little to show it shares the distress" of the bereaved. AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, normally known for its anti-American views, advised Iran against retaliation, as that would "breed a spiral of reprisals" claiming additional civilian lives. An earlier KUNA press review on 5 July cited AL-SIYASAH as holding Iran "partly responsible" for the incident due to its "constant refusal to abide by peace calls." The KUWAIT TIMES was said to have urged Tehran to "seize the occasion and accept peace." **Libya**—After several factual reports on 3 July citing Iranian sources, the official news agency JANA noted the American admission of responsibility for the "horrible crime" and "ugly massacre," which were described as the latest case of American "state terrorism." A commentator for the news agency appealed for "firm and responsible" international pressure on the United States to "withdraw its fleets and its military bases wherever they may be." A Foreign Liaison Bureau statement transmitted by JANA

on 4 July repeated the call for the withdrawal of "all foreign fleets" from the Gulf. In a second declaration from the Foreign Liaison Bureau cited by JANA, addressed to the diplomatic corps on 5 July, "all states" were asked to "work for the withdrawal of American fleets from the Mediterranean and the Arab Gulf." **Lebanon**—Initial Lebanese reaction to the incident was dominated on 5 July by reports from various radios that the Islamic Jihad organization had decided to execute an American hostage to avenge the loss of Iranian lives. The French news agency AFP added that analysts did not take the threat seriously, as it was not accompanied by photographs of any captives. The agency also cited Shi'ite religious leader Shaykh Fadlallah as saying the episode did not justify the taking of additional Western hostages.

The only monitored reaction from official Lebanese sources came from acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, who, according to Beirut radio, felt "the enormity of the tragedy" was greater because the plane had been downed by U.S. forces. Other prominent figures took a harsher line. Quoted by the same radio, Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, termed the event a "criminal massacre," while the leader of the Amal movement, Minister Nabih Birri, sent a cable to Ayatollah Khomeyni referring to the attack as "a human scandal by U.S. hands." The Political Bureau of the leftist Druze PSP denounced the incident as a reflection of "U.S. contempt for human values," according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. **Jordan**—No official statements on the Iran Air incident have been monitored from Jordanian media. However, in its reporting on the affair, Amman Domestic Service has tended to emphasize the "inadvertent" nature of the event, which occurred while the "USS Vincennes" was in a "defensive position." On 4 July, the radio claimed that the international community saw the attack as confirmation of the "urgent need to end the Iraq-Iran conflict and achieve peace in the region so that such a tragic incident will not recur." While coverage by the Amman Arabic-language press has been virtually devoid of comment, in a 4 July article in AL-RA'Y, columnist Masarwah drew a parallel with the South Korean plane brought down by the Soviets, pointing out that Jordan condemned that attack in the UN Security Council. In contrast, a 5 July editorial in the English-language daily JORDAN TIMES said: "The U.S. must accept the major part of the blame for the accident and must recognize that military prowess is not the answer to all political or human dilemmas." **Bahrain**—In a declaration summarized by Manama WAKH on 4 July, a Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed Bahrain's "regret and sorrow" to the families of those lost aboard Iran Air flight 655. The government, he added, sees the incident as a "clear example of the tension and threat to regional security and stability resulting from the Iraq-Iran war." The spokesman concluded by voicing Bahrain's wish for a speedy end to the Gulf conflict.

Among the press comment, WAKH cites an editorial in the 4 July edition of the Manama daily AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ. According to WAKH, the paper attributed the incident to Iran's insistence on continuing the war, and praised the "moral courage" of the United States in admitting its own mistake. That admission, the paper wrote, has "contributed to containing the effects of the incident and settling its consequences." **UAE**—On 4 July, a Foreign Ministry official, in a statement noted by Manama WAKH, expressed "deep sorrow and grief" at the recent U.S. naval action in the Gulf. The UAE, he declared, felt the "tragic incident" was a result of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. The spokesman also reaffirmed the UAE's call for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the conflict.

In a 5 July editorial reported by Manama WAKH, the leftist paper Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ accused the United States of "turning the region into an explosive furnace as a result of its policies of aggression." The United States sees the Middle East as an "exclusive American lake where no one can swim, not even the peoples of the area themselves." **India**—The Indian Government has "deplored" the downing of an Iranian civilian aircraft. In a statement by a spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry, reported by Delhi radio on 4 July, the use of military force against a "clearly civilian target" was "unjustified." The spokesman called on the U.S. Administration to "thoroughly investigate the circumstances" of the action and "identify those responsible for it." The radio also said that Prime Minister Gandhi had conveyed "heartfelt sympathies" in a message to his Iranian counterpart over "the act of violence perpetrated" on 3 July. **Pakistan**—In a message to his Iranian counterpart, cited by Islamabad Domestic Service on 4 July, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said "the tragedy" represented by the loss of the Iranian plane "appalled and grieved" him "beyond any measure." The president described the circumstances surrounding the incident, in which four Pakistanis died, as "highly regrettable and reprehensible." He appealed to the United States to initiate an inquiry and punish those responsible for this "unpardonable deed." **Bangladesh**—A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by Dhaka radio on 5 July, expressed "deep shock" at the downing of the Iranian Airbus. He said his government "deplored the loss of many valuable lives," and emphasized Bangladesh's "deep anxiety at the tension" in the region. **Afghanistan**—In the sole monitored Afghan reaction to the downing of Iran Air flight 655, the English-language service of the official news agency BAKHTAR transmitted a "statement" on 6 July asserting that the United States "provides all-sided grounds for the international terrorism." The statement recommended the withdrawal of U.S. forces and those of other nations not bordering the Gulf.

SOVIET UNION

The Airbus incident was first reported at 1100 GMT on 3 July by Moscow's English-language broadcast service, citing IRNA. A similar item was carried by TASS English at 1149 GMT, picked up by Moscow in Russian at 1300 GMT, and then by Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic at 1330 GMT. U.S. claims to have downed an F-14 were mentioned in hourly broadcasts beginning with the 1500

GMT Moscow World Service in English. Moscow television's "Vremya" newscast repeated the IRNA reports, adding related clips of Dubayy television film. Moscow in English at 2000 GMT noted President Reagan's admission of U.S. responsibility, which it said "avoids the capital issue": how the mistake could have been made. TASS English at 2033 GMT on 3 July cited Admiral Crowe as having admitted the plane had been shot down and having said that the United States "deeply regrets" the incident. The TASS report noted State Department alerts to most embassies regarding "special" security measures. President Reagan's statement on the incident wass the lead item on the World Service in English 2100 GMT 3 July broadcast and the Spanish broadcast.

TASS in English at 0615 GMT on 4 July cited comments by U.S. Democratic Party presidential candidates Dukakis and Jackson, expressing "deep regret" over the downing. A report on the Iranian recovery of bodies was the second item on the Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 4 July broadcast, including a brief mention of Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati's statement placing "full responsibility" on the United States. A commentary carried on the broadcast, the first monitored since the incident occurred, questioned whether the downing was accidental. It asserted that U.S. commanders in the Gulf "have apparently been losing control of their actions more and more," and asked whether the incident will lead Reagan to realize that U.S. ships "should be withdrawn from the Gulf." TASS English at 1023 GMT on 4 July reported that First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov received the Iranian ambassador to discuss the downing.

A TASS Russian commentary at 1010 GMT on the same day reported "feverish" attempts in Washington to "justify" the downing as "defense from possible attack." Aleksandr Pogodin, in a Moscow World Service commentary carried at 1110 GMT on 4 July, described U.S. accounts of the "tragic event" as ranging from "outright lies to cynical self-justification." "I am deeply convinced," the commentator said, that the act "was deliberate mass murder in cold blood" and that it is "futile" for the attack to be compared to "the termination" of the Korean Airline flight over the USSR, which had been flying over Soviet territory for a long time "despite warnings." This commentary was repeated in nine subsequent broadcasts in six languages.

Iran's protest to the United Nations was reported by the World Service at 1300 GMT on 4 July. At 1326 GMT, TASS English carried the Supreme Soviet Presidium's message to the Iranian president offering "profound and sincere condolences upon the tragic death of the passengers and crew of an Iranian airliner shot down by a missile from a U.S. naval ship." This was the first monitored high-level official Soviet statement on the incident, and it was widely relayed by both European and Asian radio beams.

A "TASS statement" carried by TASS English at 1347 GMT on 4 July declared that the downing was "far from accidental" and reinforces the need for the U.S. Navy to "leave the Persian Gulf without delay." The TASS statement was also widely reported on various Moscow radio beams.

Moscow in Arabic at 1400 GMT that day carried the Iranian protest to the United Nations as its lead item, but only the first two items concerned the incident. Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia gave the incident sixth place in a 10-item broadcast at 1400 GMT. The Supreme Soviet condolences were picked up by various Moscow broadcasts as their lead or second item, but treatment of the issue was generally brief. The TASS statement was also picked up as the lead item for English and French broadcasts. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gerasimov was reported by TASS Russian at 1730 GMT as pointing out that the Airbus was shot down "in broad daylight in excellent visibility," unlike the Korean airliner in 1983. Also on 4 July, Moscow broadcasts in Indonesian, Hindi, Cambodian, Tamil, Lao, and Vietnamese carried two commentaries on the downing of the Iran Air jet. In one, Aleksandr Pogodin described the downing as "murder" and rejected President Reagan's "excuses." He declared that, contrary to President Reagan's claims, this action proves that the United States really does not want peace in the Gulf. In the second commentary, Stanislav Vasilyev said that the downing was not accidental, as it was a direct consequence of the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf. He called for the withdrawal of foreign navies from the region and for UN supervision of international shipping lanes.

In addition to numerous TASS items, Moscow Television Service carried three commentaries on the incident. The first, by Igor Goranskiy in the "World Today" program on 4 July, noted that the tragedy has caused a "wave of indignation throughout the world" and said that "it is difficult to believe that a huge passenger plane was mistaken for a small fighter." The second, by Aleksandr Serikov in the "Novosti" 2200 GMT newscast, pointed out that this action could lead to Iranian retaliation and noted that many countries have called for the implementation of measures to prevent an armed conflict in the Gulf.

Initial Soviet press reaction to the 3 July downing of the Iran Air Airbus fell into two basic categories: the charge that the United States had perpetrated a "monstrous crime" and "terrorist act" (PRAVDA), and had resorted to "irresponsible, criminal actions" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA) and a "barbarous action" (TRUD); and consideration of the political and technical implications of the incident for both the Gulf region and the entire world in terms of the potential for escalation to a large-scale crisis.

On 5 July, PRAVDA's Second Edition devoted half of page 5 to reports and commentaries on the 3 July aircraft downing. Under a prominent headline—"Missiles Against Passengers!"—the paper prefaced its feature with a group of

subordinate captions published in boldface characterizing the incident as, inter alia, a "Terrorist Act by the U.S. Navy," a "Monstrous Crime in the Persian Gulf," and a "Barbarous Action by the United States."

A TASS report from Nicosia published in 5 July's PRAVDA cited the initial reactions of Iranian Prime Minister Musavi and Foreign Minister Velayati and Tehran radio, and was followed by a 4 July Washington dispatch from the paper's own correspondent, Vitaliy Gan, who began by saying that "cold-blooded murder has been perpetrated in the sky over the Persian Gulf." Gan then focused on the "propaganda" operation begun by "official Washington" to find versions of the incident that could be presented to the public. He cited the reference in a news conference held by Admiral W. Crowe, chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, to "extenuating circumstances," and added that Crowe accused Iran "virtually of a deliberate provocation." Summarizing the explanations given and citing the technical sophistication of the "USS Vincennes," the correspondent wrote that, in the light of the facts that accumulated throughout the day, "even to a nonspecialist these arguments sound naive at best." He viewed the White House response, with President Reagan both expressing "deep regret over the 'terrible human tragedy'" and labeling the incident "an appropriate defensive act," as an attempt "to smooth out the obvious 'discrepancies' in the explanations."

In an accompanying commentary, PRAVDA observer Tomas Kolesnichenko stated that "a crime has been committed" and declared that the U.S. missiles "also blew apart the provisions of international law, commonsense, and the principles of nonuse of force and noninterference in other peoples' affairs." Kolesnichenko noted that when Admiral Crowe was asked at a news conference about the "the difference between the present incident and the incident involving the Korean aircraft" he "resorted to sheer distortion of the facts" and "turned everything upside down." The PRAVDA observer went on to state that it would be "absurd" to accept the U.S. President's claim that the United States is only interested in peace in the Gulf. "Peace will not be achieved by such methods," he wrote. Attempts to justify what took place, he said, "show what a danger is posed to mankind by American forces in areas remote from the United States." The incident was "preprogrammed," he claimed, inasmuch as the Gulf's militarization and the U.S. and allied naval concentration there represent a "loaded gun" with "the hammer inexorably cocked." Another "far-reaching" question in Kolesnichenko's view is that of the implications of the apparent failure of U.S. technology: "If the latest electronic equipment failed to distinguish a cumbersome, slow-moving Airbus from a supersonic fighter, what guarantee is there," he asked, "that in the future the much-vaunted SDI supercomputers will not make the same mistake, with unpredictable consequences? It is clearly also time that America matched the frontiers of its Armed Forces to its own territory."

In a 5 July KRASNAYA ZVEZDA article, V. Pustov also cited Soviet warnings of the "most dangerous consequences" that could ensue from the ongoing increase in the U.S. and allied presence in the Gulf. After observing how "very belated" were the "'profound regrets'" voiced in Washington, Pustov added that the "terrible tragedy" "can in no way be regarded as purely accidental." Noting that the Soviet Union put forward a "constructive initiative" to tackle the "difficult situation" in the region, Pustov said that Washington and other NATO capitals failed to come up with a positive response. He declared that, despite the tragedy, the U.S.Administration plans no changes in a Persian Gulf policy initiated by former U.S. Secretary of the Navy Lehman, which, in the words of THE WASHINGTON POST, has increased to an exceptional degree not only the possibility of serious clashes in international waters but the danger that such clashes could escalate and develop into a nuclear conflict.

TRUD on 5 July carried a "specialist's opinion" by Candidate of Juridical Sciences V. Bordunov, senior scientific associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, who disputed the U.S.claim of a "technical error." After dicussing the ways in which civil or military aircraft are identified, he declared that "the Americans knew what they were dealing with." He accused the United States of violating the 1984 amendment to Article 3 of the Chicago convention, to the effect that "every state must refrain from using weapons against civil aircraft in flight," and concluded that the "gross violation of this important principle of international air law...gives grounds for qualifying the U.S. behavior as unlawful, with all ensuing consequences." The trade unions' central governing body, the AUCCTU, issued a statement, carried in the same issue of TRUD, which declaring that "there can be no justification for this barbarous action." The statement demanded an end to the "provocative maneuvers" by U.S. Armed Forces in the Gulf, which "threaten a grave exacerbation of the military-political situation in this region and throughout the world."

The issue of foreign reaction to the incident was raised in 5 July's KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, which claimed that "some British mass media (and primarily BBC television) are responding...in a highly peculiar fashion" designed "to justify the actions of their main allies, the Americans." Prime Minister Thatcher's expression of "profound regret" over the loss of life is juxtaposed with her "full support" for the Americans' actions, which she described as "self-defense," the paper added.

In the "Review of World Developments" on the World Service in English at 0310 GMT on 5 July, commentator Yuriy Reshetnikov asserted that "for practical purposes" the United States "is currently in a state of war with Iran," "whether it wishes or not." The "longstanding" Soviet proposal to install an international force to protect Gulf shipping "is not likely to be accepted any time soon," he continued. He concluded, citing a Western analyst, that the United States should reduce the size of its Gulf force.

Commentator Pogodin, also speaking on the World in Service English at 1110 GMT, reported "clear indications the United States does not intend to assess the tragedy in realistic terms and draw the necessary conclusions," even though "a crime has been committed, a deliberate crime."

A Moscow radio Russian-language commentary at 1500 GMT on 5 July made the point that the "much-praised U.S. military technolgy is far from perfect...if it is incapable of distinguishing a regular airbus from a combat aircraft."

Iran's request for an emergency Security Council meeting on the incident was reported by Moscow English at 1900 GMT on 5 July. TASS English at 1931 GMT reported without comment President Reagan's statement that in downing the airbus the United States had acted upon its "inherent right to self-defense" and his assertion that he considered the incident "closed."

On 5 July, in the only signed commentary observed on Moscow radio's broadcasts in Portuguese to Brazil, Aleksandr Pogodin told Brazilian listeners: "I am sure it was a crime, a programmed crime." Pogodin added: "I want to say this crime is a direct consequence of the policy Washington is pursuing in the Persian Gulf: a policy of force and of the increase of tensions." No signed commentaries were observed on Moscow radio's broadcasts in Spanish to Chile, but an anonymous commentary on 5 July said that "the entire world" reacted with "indignation and condemnation of the policy" that made the incident possible, calling it "a direct consequence of U.S. military actions during the last year to reinforce its presence in the Persian Gulf."

Moscow broadcasts in Indonesian, Hindi, Cambodian, Tamil, Lao, and Vietnamese carried repeats of the previous day's Aleksandr Pogodin commentary on 5 July, as well as a TASS statement reiterating the theme that the downing was the direct result of the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf.

A television commentary by Igor Fesunenko in the "World Today" program on 5 July noted that "statements of disgust and condemnation of the United States" are streaming in from all continents and that "stormy protest demonstrations," regarding not only this "criminal action" but the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, are being staged before many U.S. embassies.

Treatment of the downing in all monitored broadcasts on 5 July was brief, and in most cases it was not the lead item. "Vremya" television newscasts tended to carry these items well down in their presentations.

IZVESTIYA on 6 July publishes a commentary attributed to V. Ivanov, who described the airbus downing as a "natural consequence" of U.S. policy. The past year has shown, he said, that the "massive U.S. presence and the use of force are not conducive to safe navigation." The purpose of the U.S. presence is "to demonstrate U.S. might and keep the Persian Gulf within the Western sphere of influence." In the author's opinion, the incident is evidence of the "tremendous threat inherent in regional conflicts," with the possibility that "any incident" could trigger a crisis. An IZVESTIYA press service item, carried on the same page, reported the continuing search for bodies, provided extracts from the statement made by Captain Will Rogers, and noted the dispatch of a special investigation group to the Gulf region. U.S. analysts were cited as predicting serious complications in the regional situation but no change in administration policy. IZVESTIYA reported Bush and Dukakis as having "on the whole supported the administration's explanation and position on this question," with the former "fully" justifying the captain's actions and the latter urging Iran "to cease its threats against the United States and its Western allies." The V. Ivanov commentary also cited Jesse Jackson's assertion that the downing of the airliner resulted not from equipment or computer failure but from "the failure of administration policy."

TASS English on 6 July carried a dispatch by correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko noting that President Reagan had made "his third statement" in 2 days on the downing, this one in the form of a message to the speaker of the House and the president pro tempore of the Senate. The dispatch characterized the message as "an attempt to justify" the commander's actions. The same report suggested that a 5 July news conference held by a Pentagon spokesman "was also aimed at attempting to justify" the Navy's actions, but failed to explain how its "most sophisticated equipment" could not distinguish an airliner from a fighter. This report, too, cited U.S. presidential aspirant Jesse Jackson's comment that the incident involved "a political blunder" rather than a "technical" one.

TASS English reported on 6 July that Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, had visited the Iranian Embassy in Moscow to sign the condolence book. TASS English later reported that a memorial ceremony over the "tragic event" was held at the embassy and was attended by diplomats in Moscow.

In comments also carried by TASS English, an Aeroflot instructor pilot questioned how the incident could have occurred, given that the cruiser was "studded with electronic equipment." The pilot added that circumstances notwithstanding, the downing was a "sequel" to the "unprecedented build-up" of U.S. military might in the Gulf. He added that "commonsense" dictates that tension in the Gulf can be eased only by reducing the military presence there.

Commentator Aleksandr Pogodin, in remarks carried by Moscow World Service in English on the same day, said that President Reagan's declaration that the United States considers the matter closed is a view "not shared by the rest of the world." Pogodin said that "official" Washington's "obvious desire" to close the case "varies

sharply" from the demands of other countries. Concluding, Pogodin stated that "Washington's efforts to compel the interntional community to reconcile itself to the crime are futile."

Drawing a parallel between the Iranian Airbus downing and the crash of a civilian aircraft in Nicaragua, Moscow World Service correspondent Mayorov concluded that "wherever Washington builds up tension and tries to solve problems by military means, unprotected civilians, above all women and children, suffer."

Moscow broadcasts to Latin America and Cuba reported the TASS statement on the incident on 6 July. Commentaries were also carried by these radios, as well as by Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish, that criticized U.S. policy in the Gulf. A representative commentary on Moscow's beam to Cuba said that U.S. servicemen in the Gulf are "victims of a warmongering psychosis" and cannot distinguish between military planes and "huge" civilian aircraft. The commentary called on the U.S. administration to withdraw U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf.

Moscow International Service in Vietnamese carried an unattributed commentary on 6 July in which the commentator stated that he is "firmly convinced that this is a crime and, more precisely, a premeditated crime." As evidence, he declared "that with their tremendous electronic capabilities there is no way that U.S. vessels can mistake one type of aircraft for another." Finally, echoing earlier commentaries, he said that "the crime is a direct consequence of the policy of force and creation of tension that Washington exercises in the Persian Gulf area."

EAST EUROPE

Bulgaria—State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov and Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov met in Sofia on 5 July with the American UN representative, Vernon Walters, Sofia radio reported. During the meeting, Mladenov "expressed the Bulgarian Government's concern over the tragic incident and confirmed Bulgaria's position in favor of withdrawing the military ships of all countries from the Persian Gulf region." Official reaction continued on 5 July with a 190-word "declaration" from the official news agency BTA. The declaration stated that the "responsibility for this tragic incident falls entirely on the American side," and expressed the Bulgarian people's "sympathy" for the victims.

Press comment included a short article by Georgi Nikolov in the 5 July edition of RABOTNICHESKO DELO entitled "'Tragic Mistake' or Crime," which asserted that the "roots of the human tragedy lie in the presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf." **Czechoslovakia**—The Foreign Ministry "resolutely condemned" the American attack on Iran Air flight 655 as "absolutely unjustifiable," and at variance with Point 5 of the July 1987 UN Resolution on the Iran-Iraq war, CTK reported. A 4 July commentary on Bratislava radio said the "terrorist" attack in the Gulf had "nothing in common" with the downing of KAL flight 007 by the USSR in defense of its airspace. On 5 July, the Communist Party paper RUDE PRAVO published a 550-word commentary entitled: "Lesson Taught By Tragedy." The paper explains that the lesson lies in an American military pullout from the Persian Gulf, and an end to the Iraq-Iran war, which would deprive the United States of an excuse to "meddle." **GDR**—In a statement transmitted by the official news agency ADN on 4 July, the Foreign Ministry described the incident in the Persian Gulf as a "flagrant breach of international law," proving the urgent need to "end this interference" in the region. On the same day, ADN carried a telegram of sympathy from State Council Chairman Erich Honecker to the Iranian president, noting the GDR's "consternation" and "deepest sympathy." On 5 July, the party paper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND claimed that the 290 passengers on the plane "had to die because the United States is...acting as a global policeman in the Gulf." **Poland**—A declaration from the Foreign Ministry on 5 July summarized by Warsaw PAP offered the downing of the Iranian Airbus as "confirmation" of Poland's frequently expressed concern over prolongation of the Iran-Iraq war and the presence of U.S. and NATO ships in the Gulf. According to the same agency, the Warsaw daily TRYBUNA LUDU, official organ of the ruling party, said the United States "could do much more" to end the war "using diplomatic channels." The Army daily ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI claimed that "the undeclared war escaped the control of those who unleashed it." **Romania**—Bucharest radio initiated Romanian coverage of the Airbus incident on 5 July with a 120-word "statement" expressing "deep regret at the very serious action that killed the 290 persons aboard." The official news agency AGERPRES carried a 370-word item on the same day, strongly condemning the episode under the heading: "In Connection With U.S. Naval Forces' Downing of Iranian Passenger Plane—An End Should Be Put to the Aggressive Actions in the Gulf; Fearless Flight of Civil Aircraft Should Be Ensured." In its 5 July "Romanian press review," the agency mentioned a telegram of condolences from President Nicolae Ceausescu to the Iranian president, adding: "The papers stress that public opinion in Romania demands that an end be put to the aggressive action in the Gulf and that the safety of civil aircraft flight there be secured." **Yugoslavia**—Following a 3 July Belgrade radio report on the death of six Yugoslavs aboard Iran Air flight 655, the station aired a commentary by Milika Sundic, who stated that "the action by the crew of the U.S. cruiser cannot be justified in any way, because it is clear even to a layman that this was a major blunder and irresponsible behavior." A 4 July commentary from Zagreb predicted that "major consequences" would result from the affair, and that the American campaign against the USSR following the downing of KAL 007 "will now rebound on them." "The least" the United States can do, according to the commentary, "is apologize and pay compensation to the families." In a domestic news bulletin from TANJUG on 5 July, a spokesman for the Federal Foreign Affairs Secretariat was quoted as expressing "regret" at the

incident, accompanied by "great sorrow and anger." The statement also appealed for "urgent international action" to end the war "on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598."

In its 5 July edition, BORBA published factual reportage on the clash, citing IRNA, REUTER, and world reaction, including the response from Britain, France, and Italy. The paper's New York correspondent, Bogdan Decermic, reviewed statements by President Reagan, Admiral Crowe, and the State Department. In addition, the paper included a commentary by Slobodan Pavlovic, who declared that "the insane conflict in the Gulf has taken new, innocent lives," and that the incident "is a warning and appeal to those who started the war, those who do not want to end it, and those who think they are invited to regulate it and decide on it."

WEST EUROPE

Italy—Italian coverage of the incident focused primarily on the Italian frigate "Espero," dispatched to assist in recovering bodies from the downed aircraft. In the first monitored report at 1700 GMT on 3 July, Rome radio noted that there was "great concern" in Italy over the situation. The Italian prime minister expressed "profound condolences" in a report broadcast at 2200 GMT on the same day, while a 1555 GMT radio report on 4 July indicated that the Iranian aircraft had been at an abnormal altitude and "did not respond" to warning signals from the "USS Vincennes." The Italian president's message of condolences to Iranian President Khamene'i was reported by Rome radio at 2030 GMT on 4 July.

At 1730 GMT on 5 July, the radio reported on the Italian foreign minister's response to "urgent" parliamentary concerns about the incident, calling for UN intervention "to stop the conflict" and highlighting the "need for clarification of the Italian Navy's presence in the Gulf." Finally, the radio reported at 2030 GMT on 5 July that the prime minister had met with the opposition Socialist leader to discuss the situation in the Gulf. **France**—Paris radio, in a brief report broadcast at 2000 GMT on 3 July, cited the French Government's "consternation" over the downing and its request that "full light" be "shed as to the circumstances" of the incident. At 1300 GMT on 4 July the radio carried remarks made by the Iranian ambassador in Paris in which he questioned whether the downing was an accident. Khomeyni's declaration of war on the United States was also reported, in Paris radio's 0600 GMT cast on 5 July.

LE MONDE carried an editorial on 5 July crediting the United States for having rapidly admitted its responsibility for the Airbus downing, and noting that the circumstances of the incident were "very different" from those of the Soviet downing of the KAL airliner. The Paris daily added that Iranian "followers of terrorism" would certainly unleash their "fury" against the U.S. presence in the Gulf in response. It suggested that the Iraqis would use the incident to "surreptitiously fuel the conflagration," and implied that they were indirectly responsible for the "tragedy," in that their planes initiated the recent "insane" events by attacking two oil tankers bearing Iranian crude oil.

The conservative LE FIGARO praised President Reagan for having admitted responsibility and having immediately expressed U.S. regret for the "blunder" in the Persian Gulf. The fundamental question raised by the tragedy, according to the paper's 5 July editorial, is whether the United States' strategic choices have been wise. While LE FIGARO noted that the U.S. military "umbrella" has reassured the moderate Arab countries and deterred Iran, it wondered if it might not have been possible to secure the same result through diplomatic means. The paper concluded that the Americans became involved in the Gulf to maintain their credibility, and must now remain there for the same reason.

A commentary by Jacques Coubard appearing in the 4 July edition of the French Communist Party newspaper L'HUMANITE posited that there were no extenuating circumstances for the "U.S. policeman's crime." Coubard concluded by urging France to use its influence to ensure that negotiations are begun to end the Gulf conflict. **Spain**—Madrid radio carried lead items in its midday broadcasts on 3 and 4 July in which the Spanish Government's regret over the "tragic error" was highlighted. The radio linked the Gulf incident to the defusing of a bomb near the U.S. Embassy believed to have been planted by a "radical Islamic group," later reported to be the "International Anti-Imperialist Brigades."

The conservative Madrid newspaper ABC suggested that Washington will have to pay a high price in terms of its image for what was "one of the most serious episodes" in the Gulf war. The paper's 4 July editorial declared that the U.S. naval vessel's "mistaking" of the Airbus for an enemy strike bomber was "unacceptable." It noted, however, that, in contrast to the 1982 KAL case, "we do, in fact, seem to be dealing with an error rather than a deliberate act." **Scandinavia**—Coverage afforded the Gulf incident was sparse overall. Stockholm radio reported at 1600 GMT on 4 July on the heightened security measures imposed at U.S. airlines and the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm in "fear of Iranian retaliation" for the downing, while Helsinki radio noted at 0830 GMT on 5 July that the Finnish Government had conveyed to the Iranian Government the fact that it "deeply deplores" the incident. Helsinki radio also noted that the Finnish Airline Pilots Association saw the Airbus downing as "an act of terrorism." **Netherlands**—Describing movements in the Persian Gulf as "high noon in the Strait of Hormuz," Amsterdam's DE VOLKSKRANT suggested that Washington is turning things upside down when it upbraids Iran for allowing civil aircraft to fly in a "war zone." Primary responsibility for the incident, the paper argues in a 5 July editorial, lies with the commander of the "USS Vincennes," and not with Iran Air. DE VOLKSKRANT concludes that it is justifiable to state that the United States has seriously

overestimated its ability to operate in the Gulf with the necessary level of selectivity. **United Kingdom**—The DAILY TELEGRAPH termed the destruction of the Iranian airliner an "appalling mistake," which may have profound long-term consequences on U.S. Middle East policy and on Iran's relations with the West. In its 4 July editorial, the paper went on to state that the incident should not blind the international public to the success such naval patrols have had in maintaining an open international waterway through which much of the oil supplies for both Japan and the West pass, and noted that Iran cannot be viewed as an innocent party.

Monitored London PRESS ASSOCIATION coverage, beginning with a report at 1845 GMT on 3 July, focused on Britain's concern that there may be an "anti-West backlash" from the incident. Prime Minister Thatcher's expression of "profound regret" was reported, together with comment by the British opposition suggesting that an effort by Britain to distance itself from the United States in the wake of the incident would improve its chances "of bringing back our hostages." A statement by Iran's ambassador declaring that the U.S. personnel responsible should "face a court martial" was reported at 1147 GMT on 4 July. **Austria**—All Austrian dailies carried detailed reports on the Airbus downing in their 4-6 July editions.

Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German published a commentary on 4 July stating that while "the tragedy in the Gulf" was not the result of "a barbaric lust to kill," it highlights how easily human error can trigger a catastrophe. On 6 July the paper commented that the incident is a "bloody symbol of the many U.S. failures in this region in the past 10 years."

Vienna DIE PRESSE in German on 5 July carried a commentary comparing the incident to the 1983 Soviet downing of a Korean airliner, and concluding that "nothing can justify the U.S. action."

A report published by Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German on 5 July cited the reactions of Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky, Foreign Minister Mock, and President Waldheim. Waldheim was quoted as viewing the development to be "extremely hazardous," inasmuch as there is the danger of "retaliation." Mock expressed the hope that "this tragic sacrifice" will lead "those with political responsibility to be more amenable to talks," while Vranitzky suggested that the deaths of the Airbus passengers demonstrate "how senseless and dangerous the Gulf war is."

The communist newspaper Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German severely condemned the United States in a 5 July report, recalling the downing of the KAL flight by the USSR and suggesting that on both occasions "the United States wanted to demonstrate its policy of strength," the result both times being the "unscrupulous" sacrifice of "the lives of many civilians." **FRG**—Bonn DIE WELT in German on 4 July carries a commentary by Fritz Wirth declaring that "no one can seriously accuse the United States of having intentionally caused this disaster. Its behavior in the Gulf war thus far excludes this possibility." Wirth went on to note that the United States "has exclusively played the role of a protective power to date, defending uninvolved and defenseless civilians against Iran's aggression." A second commentary by Fritz Wirth entitled "Terrible Consequences," published in Bonn DIE WELT on 5 July, notes that "the political tragedy of this catastrophe lies in the fact that political change is in the offing in Iran, and initial signals of detente have begun to appear between Washington and Tehran." The commentary adds that "it has become a bitter irony of history that U.S. presidents leave office under the stigma of an Iran crisis." Wirth also authored a 6 July commentary entitled "Reagan Insists on Presence in Gulf" in which he said that "the White House is clearly trying to play down the political relevance of the catastrophe." He also noted that the Iranian leaders "do not seem to be in agreement as to their reactions," contrasting Khomeyni's call for "all-out war" with Rafsanjani's warning of "precipitous reactions."

Frankurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German on 4 July published a commentary entitled "Death In the Gulf," noting that "only when death makes the headlines" do we realize that "the killing in the Gulf is endless." On 5 July the paper carried a front-page commentary by Karl-Alfred Odin entitled "The Catastrophe," in which the Iranian Airbus incident is contrasted with the 1983 Soviet downing of a Korean airliner. The author wrote that "the Iranian Airbus approached a warship that did not have enough time to thoroughly identify it, at low altitude and at high speed from a relatively close distance. In contrast, Soviet interceptors flew beside the Korean plane for a long time and identified it before they shot it down, over a region where no fighting was taking place." The commentator went on to say that "while it is not now possible to clearly place responsibility for the downing of the Airbus, it has been demonstrated to the Americans more clearly than ever before just how thoroughy their policy toward Iran invites disaster."

An article by Carlos Widmann appeared in the 5 July edition of Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, entitled "The Never-Ending Embarrassing Silence," which says that "apart from the regret expressed by President Reagan on Monday night, the U.S. nation did not permit itself to show any internationally noticeable reaction over its festive weekend," in contrast to the "outrageous outburst" that followed the destruction of the Korean airliner. The same paper published a commentary by Dieter Schroeder criticizing the United States for not having taken the necessary precautions to prevent such an incident and concluding that "the United States has jeopardized its peace mission in the Gulf and has contributed to the escalation and extension of the war."

West German reaction monitored from Hamburg DPA included the "great shock" expressed by Foreign Minister Genscher in condolences sent to Iran's foreign minister and the "deep consternation" felt by the federal

government. DPA also carried a statement by the Iranian ambassador in Bonn indicating that the United States "consciously" intended to kill the passengers in order to "have an excuse for an attack on Iran." **Greece**—On 4 July, Athens radio reported a statement by a Greek Government spokesman in which he said that the "tragic event" was the "responsibility of the United States," as it has prolonged the tension in the Gulf. The ATHENS NEWS newspaper cited the Iranian ambassador to Greece as saying that the attack "will not go unanswered," though Iran does not want to "extend the Persian Gulf war to neighbouring countries and regions." While Greek papers and Athens radio carried extensive reports on the incident on 4 and 5 July, including ample coverage of U.S. officials' statements and explanations, the only monitored Greek comment on the incident came in a 6 July column published by the communist newspaper RIZOSPASTIS, describing the downing of the plane by the "international terrorist" as "mass murder" and urging the PASOK government to proceed with the removal of U.S. bases from Greece on the grounds that a similar "mistake" could happen anywhere where U.S. forces are present. **Cyprus**—Four Cyprus papers on 5 and 6 July criticized the U.S. downing of the Iranian airliner with varying degrees of severity. The communist paper KHARAVYI called the action "a political crime," while I SIMERINI said that "no excuse can be considered sufficient." O FILELEVTHEROS suggested that the precedent established with the USSR's downing of a Korean airliner cannot remove "the weight of responsibility" for the new incident. ELEVTHEROTIPIA criticized President Vasiliou for attending the U.S. Embassy Independence Day reception "on the day of the great slaughter." While Nicosia radio carried extensive reports on the incident, no reaction or comment was monitored. **Turkey**—The Istanbul newspaper CUMHURIYET commented on 5 July that the downing of the airliner by U.S. forces reveals that "high technology offers no reassurance" and suggested that the superpowers "seem to be behaving in an unbelievably indifferent way." Four other Istanbul papers—MILLIYET, TERCUMAN, HURRIYET, and GUNAYDIN—carried commentaries sounding similar notes, expressing the opinion that great danger results when the superpowers can make mistakes with such disastrous consequences, and declaring that the Gulf war must be brought to an end. Ankara radio reported extensively on the airbus downing, and carried the only monitored official Turkish reaction to the incident, a Foreign Ministry statement broadcast at 1000 GMT on 4 July expressing "deep regret" over the event and urging a speedy and peaceful solution to the Gulf war, arrived at "among the Gulf countries themselves, without any outside interference." The Turkish Foreign Ministry also called on concerned parties "to act calmly and to refrain from provocative acts that might exacerbate the situation." The radio also carried comments by the two opposition parties, the CWP and the SDPP. The former strongly denounced the attack and stressed that such attacks on civilian targets are unacceptable, while the SDPP expressed "deep regret" and urged that "the war that produced this inhuman attack and similar attacks must be stopped."

CHINA

China's official reaction to the American downing of an Iranian commercial airliner on 3 July came in a statement the next day by the Foreign Ministry spokesman, transmitted by XINHUA. The spokesman said the Chinese were "shocked" to learn of the incident, and noted that they "condemn" the action. He also reaffirmed the Chinese Government's opposition to "big power military involvement" in the Gulf, and voiced hope for a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war at the earliest possible date.

XINHUA's English-language service has carried nearly 80 reports on the incident, including a dispatch from a XINHUA correspondent who visited the scene. The agency's Chinese service has carried far fewer items, roughly a dozen, the bulk of which have cited American and Iranian declarations. Beijing radio's coverage has followed a similar pattern—fewer pieces on the event, with most quoting U.S. and Iranian statements.

Beijing RENMIN RIBAO, the country's leading paper, published a comment in its 5 July edition under the pen name Ming He. The article voiced "shock" at the shooting and reviewed the American and Iranian versions of the incident. While the article noted that a credible account "has yet to be verified," it expressed disbelief that a U.S. warship could mistake an Airbus for a jet fighter. RENMIN RIBAO added that the American military presence in the Gulf can only make the situation there "more complicated," and pointed out that it also infringes on navigation in the region. The piece concluded by calling on both Iran and Iraq to cease hostilities.

EAST ASIA

Japan—The government's official reaction to the loss of Iran Air flight 655 came in a 4 July KYODO report on a news conference by Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi. Obchi told journalists that the government "deeply regrets" the loss of life, and hopes the incident will not lead to increased tension in the Gulf. He also called for an "early and peaceful" settlement of the Iran-Iraq war.

Prime Minister Takeshita, currently on a visit to Australia, offered condolences to the victims and said he hoped there would be no "recurrence" of such a tragedy. He also expressed hope that the "tragic incident" would not lead to an escalation of tension in the Gulf, and came out in favor of an "early, peaceful settlement" of the Iran-Iraq war.

The Japan Socialist Party, a small opposition group, denounced the United States for its action against the plane, which it termed an "unpardonable act." It also

urged the United States to halt its "military intervention" in the Iran-Iraq war immediately, apologize for the incident, and compensate the victims' families.

The transport minister, Shintaro Ishihara, mentioned the clash in a meeting with the press following a 5 July cabinet meeting, where he was quoted as saying: "Though the United States has given various explanations, it is a lamentable incident that should not have happened"; "the government as a whole should take measures to guarantee the security of civil aircraft."

In its newscasts on 4 and 5 June, the Tokyo NHK General Television Network broadcast a large number of reports on the episode, including factual material on the event, Japanese reaction to it, its effect on the yen's rate of exchange, Japan Airlines' plan to modify its route over the site of the shooting, and the Transport Ministry's intention to have Japanese tankers continue their convoys through the Strait of Hormuz. **North Korea**—The DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman, in a statement aired by Pyongyang Domestic Service on 5 July, condemned the "brigandish act of air terrorism" by the "USS Vincennes" in shooting down the Iranian Airbus. According to the statement, the incident "reveals to the world once again that the U.S. imperialists—who fabricated the intrigue of the missing South Korean passenger plane and raved about so-called terrorism and sanctions—are the ringleaders of international terrorism." The Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement concluded that the United States "should stop aggravating tension in the Persian Gulf and immediately withdraw its aggressive armed forces from around the world." Pyongyang KCNA on 5 July reported that the downing by the "U.S. imperialists" was an "intentional" and "malicious act of retaliation for the downing of a U.S. helicopter in their encounter with Iranian naval boats." The report concluded by warning of "intensified military intervention and terrorism" by the United States. **South Korea**—The first official reaction of the South Korean Government to the downing of the Iranian Airbus was reflected in a Foreign Ministry statement carried by Seoul YONHAP on 5 July which instructed embassies in the Middle East to "strengthen measures for the safety of Koreans there in preparation for a possible escalation of the conflict in the region." On the same day, YONHAP transmitted a report on a statement issued by a Foreign Ministry spokesman in connection with the incident which expressed "profound regret" and "deep condolences."

THE KOREA HERALD, in an editorial published on 6 July, said that the "tragic destruction" "underscores the urgent need to find peaceful solution before more lives are lost." Recounting the downing of Korean Air Lines flight 007 in 1983, the paper urged "all nations to join efforts to avoid a repetition of Sunday's tragic mishap, whatever its truth, and to assure a ruling that can bring peace and stability in that region of the world." In a more critical editorial published by THE KOREA TIMES on the same day, a parallel was drawn between the Iranian Airbus downing and the downing of Korean Air Lines flight 007 on 1 September 1983. The editorial said that "now the United States has ironically been put into the Soviets' position" and that it "cannot escape worldwide censure over the undeniable fact that it attacked a passenger plane and killed nearly 300 people." It concluded by urging "restraint" on the part of Iran and "due remedial steps" to be taken by the United States. The two Seoul television stations, Seoul Television Service and Seoul MBC Television Network, carried extensive though generally neutral coverage of the incident. **Philippines**—Acting Foreign Secretary Jose D. Ingles, in a statement reported in the 6 July edition of the independent Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, extended his government's sympathy to the families of the passengers of Iran Air flight 655, and noted its regret at the loss of "innocent lives." The statement also reiterated an appeal for a peaceful solution to the 8-year war between Iran and Iraq, and expressed hope that all parties concerned "will take effective steps to prevent a repetition of this deplorable incident." The INQUIRER explained that Ingles' statement was in response to an appeal from the Iranian charge d'affaires, who requested condemnation of what he described as an act of "terrorism." In addition, the report quoted President Corazon Aquino, when asked if she condemned the attack, as saying: "I'm still waiting for the results of the investigation...." On 5 July, the same paper published an editorial under the headline "Terrorism," comparing the 3 July incident to the 1983 Soviet downing of a KAL airliner. The editorial called Iran "a Third World nation that asserts its sovereignty and bravely confronts even the mightiest powers in defense of what it regards as its national interest." The paper saw the incident as evidence that "the Iranians and other Third World peoples do not have a monopoly on terrorism. Americans, too, are just as capable of it."

In a 5 June editorial entitled "Hostages of U.S. Foreign Policy," THE MANILA CHRONICLE portrayed the incident as proof that "Americans can be just as murderous as the Soviets." The paper called the event a demonstration of the fact that "innocent people are very much at the mercy of chance when a superpower chooses to flex its muscle." The editorial also questioned the role of the Philippines in "this dubious political-economic-military effort." **Australia**—Prime Minister Bob Hawke "'very deeply' regretted the disaster, which was a case of mistaken identity during heavy fighting between Iranian and U.S. gunships", in remarks carried by Hong Kong AFP on 4 July. The same item quoted Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden as declaring that the "tragedy underscored the need for a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq." **Indonesia**—The Indonesian Government "regrets" the downing of an Iranian Airbus by U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, according to a Foreign Ministry statement transmitted on 6 July by the Jakarta press agency ANTARA. The ministry said the tragedy reflected the "increasing importance of efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war" and noted that "the increasing number of foreign forces entering the Gulf region has increased the risk of involvement in the war."

A 6 July Jakarta radio commentary said the "tragic incident" could be viewed as a factor to persuade those involved in the Gulf conflict to settle their dispute. The station pointed out that the "horrible human tragedy would not have occurred had the United States not sent its warships to the Gulf." However, the radio added that the United States "would not have dispatched its forces to the Gulf had Iran heeded the world's call for an end to its war with Iraq."

In a 5 July statement to ANTARA, Imron Rosyadi, chairman of a parliamentary commission on defense and security, foreign affairs, and information, pointed out that "it is more than proper if the whole world criticizes and even condemns the shooting down of the Iranian jetliner." Roysadi termed the American operation a "shameful act" that "violated human norms." As for President Reagan's defense of the attack as legitimate self-defense, he declared that such an argument "does not make sense." "It is impossible," he continued, "to understand how a U.S. warship with the most modern and sophisticated equipment on board could possibly make a mistake." **Malaysia**—In a strongly worded declaration, reported by Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA on 5 July, the Foreign Ministry announced that the country "deplored" the destruction of the Iranian airliner. The ministry said "it is difficult to believe or accept U.S. claims that its forces could have committed the grave error of mistaking a large civilian aircraft for a military one." The government offered its condolences and "profound sympathy" over "the unmitigated disaster," which caused "consternation and deep anguish." **Thailand**—Commenting on the unofficial discussion of the incident by ASEAN foreign ministers on 4 July, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila expressed his "deep regret," but "reserved further comment until more details are known," according to the 5 July edition of the Bangkok paper THE NATION. In an editorial in the same issue, under the headline "The U.S. Does What It Can; Iran Suffers What It Must," THE NATION said it is "indeed a human tragedy that U.S. servicemen and officers on "The Vincennes" couldn't tell an Airbus" from a "U.S.-built F-14 Tomcat." The editorial asserted that the "tendency of the U.S. to find solace in comparing this attack with the Soviet downing of the Korean Boeing 747 is, at best, deplorable. Having warned the Iranian Airbus seven times before blowing it off the skies didn't make the act less appalling."

In another editorial on 5 July, the BANGKOK POST urged the United States to "make a dramatic gesture" to defuse the crisis and restore confidence in American policies. In its commentary, entitled "Aftermath of a Terrible Tragedy," the paper mourned the loss suffered by the Iranian people. While the POST said there was no reason to doubt America's claim that the action was accidental, "the firing of a missile at the civilian airliner on a scheduled regular flight must nevertheless be deplored."

Among other press comment, the Thai-language daily MATICHON published an editorial on 5 July declaring that the "United States has no right to justify the incident as 'a proper defensive action' as President Reagan claimed. Such American rights do not cover the attack against a civilian airliner, which represents no threat to the life and property of the United States." The editorial referred to U.S. policy in the Gulf as "mistaken," for it tends to promote violence. As such, the paper recommended that the United States "use this extensive lesson to realize the time has come to adjust its policy in the Persian Gulf." **Vietnam**—On 5 July, Hanoi Domestic Service aired a report that characterized the downing of the Iranian Airbus as "a criminal action by the United States," which "has triggered indignation among the Iranian people and strong protests by world public opinion." The radio then reviewed Iranian Prime Minister Musavi's comments on the episode and a TASS report that called on the U.S. "to withdraw its fleets from the region." No official statements have been monitored from Vietnamese media. **Laos**—Citing TASS, Vientiane Domestic Service presented a report on 6 July covering the destruction of the Iranian passenger plane. On the same day, the station broadcast an "article" on the Iran-Iraq war, describing the loss of the Iran Air jet as further proof that the USSR's "correct and reasonable proposal" to end the Gulf conflict should be implemented.

LATIN AMERICA

Cuba—The Cuban Foreign Ministry condemned the downing of the Iranian Airbus, according to a report carried by Havana International Service on 5 July. The report noted that the ministry rejected the U.S. version of the "massacre," as the equipment aboard the "Vincennes" "can clearly distinguish between military and civilian aircraft." The Cuban Foreign Ministry concluded that the "growing presence" of U.S. forces in the Gulf "represents a danger to international peace and security." A commentary aired by the same station the previous evening follows a similar outline but makes stronger charges. The commentary describes the "massacre" as a "barbaric act" and suggests that one could be led to believe that "this U.S. attack" was "intentional." It is impossible, the commentary adds, to draw a parallel between this incident and the downing of a South Korean airliner several years ago, for the Iranian plane was in a corridor "well marked on international air traffic maps." The commentary closed by pointing out that with only a few months left in his administration, "Reagan has another crime on his hands." **Nicaragua**—The Nicaraguan Government took advantage of a message from President Daniel Ortega "to the U.S. people" on the occasion of Independence Day to include, in the final paragraph, a comment describing the downing of the Iranian aircraft as "a true act of genocide," which demonstrates U.S. "contempt for international law" and "betrays the ideals of those who fought and died for American independence." The message was aired by Managua radio on 4 July. **Panama**—In an official communique reported by Panama City Domestic Service on 4 July and later carried in full by the government newspaper CRITICA, the Panamanian Government attributed recent events in the Persian Gulf to America's "unbridled desire for domination." The communique

charges that U.S. claims of a "mistake or error" are "unacceptable excuses." **Argentina**—A communique released by the Press Directorate at Government House on 3 July and carried by Buenos Aires DYN expressed "deep consternation" over the loss of the Iranian Airbus. The declaration added that the Argentine Government "expects the circumstances and the responsibility of those who caused it to be clarified." The communique also reiterated Argentina's belief that a "quick and final solution" must be found for the conflict. **Brazil**—In a 4 July communique broadcast by Brasilia radio, the Foreign Ministry expressed "deep sorrow" at the loss of "many innocent lives" in the downing of Iran Air flight 655. The statement noted that international civil aviation "must not be threatened by this type of event," and underlined the need for "maximum restraint" by all parties in the Persian Gulf. On 5 July, Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre reported that when President Sarney, who is currently visiting the PRC, learned of the incident, "he deplored it" as an "accident of war." According to Sodre, Sarney added that "we must all work to eliminate wars from the earth, because they are the cause of deplorable disasters such as this." **Uruguay**—In a 5 July communique reported by Montevideo Radio El Espectador, the Foreign Ministry voiced its "consternation" over the downing of an Iranian Airbus by U.S. forces. The ministry also expressed hope that the regional conflict could be resolved in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 598. In its own resolution on the incident, the Uruguayan Senate, expressing its "deepest consternation" over the action and calling for "a thorough investigation for the total clarification of the tragedy and the determination of responsibility," added its "total and full solidarity with the Iranian people."

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Ghana—In a strongly worded statement broadcast by Accra radio on 4 July, the Ghanaian Government described the American action in the Gulf as "not only unforgivable and violent, but also as a deliberate provocation against Iran that could lead to an escalation of the Gulf war." The declaration called for "an immediate investigation, under the auspices of the United Nations, into the circumstances of the shooting down of the airliner."

Press and radio commentary has echoed the harsh tone set by the government statement. In a 5 July editorial cited by Accra Domestic Service, the GHANAIAN TIMES suggested that the American operation may have been a "deliberate" attempt "to provoke Iran into direct confrontation" as part of a "U.S. plan to do something dramatic in order to provide a world outcry for an end to the war." On the same day, Accra radio condemned the "halfhearted, even downright callous reaction of Western allies" to the incident, highlighting the UK and Italy in particular. A similar station commentary on 6 July explained that "contrary to President Reagan's opinion, the matter is not closed, and one hopes that when the results of the investigations are known, appropriate sanctions will be applied." **Nigeria**—The Nigerian Government summoned the U.S. ambassador on 5 July to express its "shock" over the incident, and said that "more care should have been taken by the U.S. naval warship." At the same time, the government called on Iran and the families of the victims to "exercise restraint in the face of this tragedy."

In general, the press has been far more critical of the United States. In a 5 July commentary, the NEW NIGERIAN portrayed the killing of 300 Iranian civilians as "an irresponsible and vicious aggression by the desperate power," and likened the act to the "series of crimes being committed by the Americans in the Middle East in the past 10 years." On 6 July, the DAILY TIMES wrote that President Reagan was "fully aware of the consequences" of sending warships to the Gulf, while THE SKETCH called the American claim that the Iranian airliner had been mistaken for an F-14 a "flimsy" excuse. **South Africa**—In remarks reported by Johannesburg radio on 5 July, President P.W. Botha said it was "strange" that while Washington could offer "excuses" for shooting down a civilian airliner, South Africa was branded a "terrorist state" by leading American groups for protecting its "own interests" against "international terrorism."

Cuba

Construction Workers Union Congress Continues

Castro Talks With Worker

FL0607050088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2307 GMT 5 Jul 88

["Exclusivo" program report by Leydis Montoya on proceedings of the sixth National Trade Union of Construction Workers congress at the Lazaro Pena Theater in Havana]

[Excerpts] The sixth congress of the National Trade Union of Construction Workers continues to meet at the Lazaro Pena Theater with the attendance and active participation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. So far, the attention of the 488 delegates has been taken up with the lack of administrative control over the workers' tools, the poor quality of production levels, and job safety. Delays in the building of the cement factory in Siguaney, Sancti Spiritus, gave rise to Fidel's extensive participation in the discussions. He also said that those most responsible were Construction Minister Homero Crabb and Materials Industry Minister Levi Farah. The completion of this factory would result in a considerable savings in foreign exchange for the country.

Here is the exchange the commander in chief had with Andrea Alvarez, the only woman quarry operator in the country.

[Begin recording] [Alvarez] Commander, the workers of the (Reinaldo Mora) quarry fulfilled last year's plan by 104 percent. So far this year, up to 30 June, plan fulfillment has reached 130 percent. This was the result of the work of the employees, management, political organizations, etc. Of course, the workers are a bit annoyed because you have not visited us.

[Castro] I almost thanked you [laughter] because I thought you would not bring that up here. [laughter] And the first thing you do when you get the chance is to remind me that I have not kept my word to visit [chuckles] even though I have been over there a couple of times. Why are you laughing? No one reminded me. Otherwise, I would have headed straight there. Isn't the quarry in Consolacion?

[Alvarez] Yes, in Consolacion.

[Castro] The last time I was there, or the time before, I had a collision. That's probably why I forgot the quarry. [laughter] With a bus. Good thing we were the ones that hit the bus and not vice versa.

[Alvarez] The workers feel...

[Castro, interrupting] That was the day of Che's anniversary.

[Alvarez] Yes. The workers feel that this is the reason, that you are afraid to go to Consolacion. [laughter]

[Castro, laughing] Well, the truth is that I am terrified about going to Consolacion. But, since there is a highway now, I can go around Pinar del Rio so I won't have to pass that road where the bus was hurtling along like a rocket.

[Alvarez] They installed a traffic light there now.

[Castro] You have two roads. That's an invention of yours, the Consolacioners. You have consoled yourselves with Consolacioners or Consoloners. [laughter] What's the word? You built one road going to the sugar mill and another passing through the middle of town. Now, who in his right mind would come up with that?

[Alvarez] Well, commander...

[Castro, interrupting] Then there's no stop sign, no traffic light, nothing. I wonder how many accidents have occurred there. I am sure there have been a few. So, I am not going to that quarry! [laughter] Not until you install a traffic light there.

[Alvarez] Well, then, we can say that you are coming to visit soon because the traffic light has been there for some time. [laughter, applause]

[Castro, laughing] That's true. Hey, Andrea, I had forgotten the fuss I made the day of the collision. So, there's a traffic light. Who knows how many lives will be saved. That's good. So I have no pretext or excuse not to go.

[Alvarez] Commander, my work objective is as follows...

[Castro, interrupting] So, let them know. Take that back with you as far as their being discouraged and annoyed is concerned. Take that back and tell them that I have made a new promise. That's why you have to think very carefully before promising. You have to think it over three times. But this time, I guess I have no choice but to go. And I will. [end recording]

It was learned among the journalists that the delegates have been debating for more than 10 hours. There has been little participation by high-ranking officials of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], though it is a congress of the labor movement. [passage omitted]

Few agreements have been reached; I believe there's been only one so far condemning the crime of the downing of the Iranian plane. [passage omitted]

Castro on Job Changing

FL0607150288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The problems which affect the fluctuation of qualified workers of the National Trade Union of Construction Workers were extensively debated during the first working day of the Construction Workers Congress which was attended by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

[Begin recording] [Speaker] In this case we can say that the highly bloated payrolls of enterprises also conspire in many cases with the fluctuation of comrades who are already qualified. There are comrades who take the test and go 2, 3, and 4 years qualified and the enterprise does not have a position for those comrades. However, those comrades are carrying out the same job (?within) the enterprise but they do not get paid for their qualifications because the payroll is bloated and there is no way for them to get paid for their qualifications. When they read that there are jobs they can be paid for at the Baconao plant, the steel plant, the Diaz Brothers refinery, or the textile enterprise, they quickly ask to leave.

[Castro] If that man there is a welder and does not do the job of a welder, it is better to set him free and let him go to a place where a welder is needed. However, if he is a welder and continues working as a welder, and if he is qualified as a welder and is doing quality work, I don't see why he should not be paid according to the job he is doing. It wouldn't be a problem. However, even in this report, evaluations are said to be generally poor, very poor. It says that there is some kind of paternalism, excess of camaraderie, when it comes to giving evaluations. This could be another angle to the problem.

[Speaker] We have at times encountered problems in Camaguey, Nuevitas, when the assembly work slows down between the completion of one job and the beginning of another. [passage omitted]

In the case of the Santiago comrades, they have concrete tasks in the auxiliary buildings of the nuclear power plant, and some collectives are already going there. Even larger groups are due to go there as soon as the refinery is completed on 26 July.

[Castro] This is not the only area we have to improve upon. There are many things we have to improve. As long as men are motivated more, there is progress regardless of the system. I have seen those people in Pinar del Rio working 14 and 15 hours on the highway simply because they were determined to finish it. Despite the pay system which conspires against efficiency, those men work very hard and they got results. I asked myself why this was so. This is because they had great motivation. Attention to man can be given to all regardless of the system. There will be less fluctuation if there is more attention to man. There will be less fluctuation if there is more commitment, more motivation in man to carry out the project, if he is more enthusiastic in what he is doing.

I want to say that we will not drown in all the things that we are working on. And I think that it would not be prudent, wise, smart for us to hurry and go at full speed because we will do it wrong. The conditions for those changes will not have been created. The result will be that we will begin to see and have problems if we do that. This will happen if we do not create the conditions. Let all these [words indistinct] vanguards, vanguard groups, vanguard collectives, teach the rest and let them start getting enthusiastic with the new method and organization of work and salaries. I think that is the path to be taken. It's not that I'm impatient; I'm very patient. Of course, I would like to have 100,000 [words indistinct], but that doesn't happen overnight. You have to work hard to create all those conditions. Better yet, you have to slow down, because I have seen through experience that everything done in that way, suddenly and with massive and hurried applications, comes out wrong. That could discredit the best of ideas. For several years we have been involved in this whole thing; we have been on top of all this activity. Let's give this horse a little more fodder, pet it a bit, give it a bath, [laughter] give it a bath so that it runs. We are going to make it run a little better until we are able to change the mount. That is the criterion. That is why I am saying: slow. Let's go slowly to do things well, and improve everything that can be improved. [applause] [end recording]

Nicaraguan Speaks

FL0607165588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The importance of being able to share experiences and ideas to develop new methods as stated by Fidel was stressed by Nicaraguan trade union leader Jose Benito Rosales at the sixth congress of the construction workers union.

During his speech, which began the second and last day of this forum in Havana, Benito Rosales said: We are also making an effort to construct the society that the heroes and martyrs of our struggles dreamed about.

The Nicaraguan trade union leader noted his country's situation after 8 years of revolution and the measures taken by the Sandinist government to confront the (?setbacks) caused by the reactionary sectors that do not want the laborers to work.

More than 800 delegates and guests are attending the congress from Cuba, Latin American, and Western Europe.

Main Report Approved

FL0607210988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1902 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The main report and the addendum, as well as the rules for the National Trade Union of Construction Workers [SNTC], were approved at the Sixth SNTC congress, which will end tonight at the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions after 2 days of sessions.

During this morning's session, (Albert Shakalov), leader of the construction workers trade union in Moscow, conveyed greetings to the Cuban forum from the 8 million construction workers in the Soviet Union.

Homero Crabb, member of the PCC Central Committee and construction minister, said that his ministry, the trade union, and the political organizations in this sector will create commissions to analyze pay systems.

Levi Farah, minister of the Cuban construction materials industry, stressed the efforts underway for the development of that economic sector.

Castro on Labor Drain

FL0707025588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2301 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Report by Leydis Montoy from the Lazaro Pena Theater in Havana]

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro is just now delivering the closing speech of the congress of the construction workers union. He began speaking at approximately 1700. In the first part of his speech, the commander noted that at the beginning there was a lot of construction: dams, the national highway, schools, and many other important projects. He said that this activity started to lose its momentum because of the views of some who copied poorly from other countries. He called for the application of our own experience. He stated: We are not obliged to copy. If we make mistakes, let's make them on our own. He also called on the nation to not make strategic mistakes, especially at this time because we have always lived with Yankee imperialism.

As we said, the commander in chief is closing the construction congress.

[Begin Castro recording] We need to work in one province today and in another tomorrow. I say this because I consider that the main construction force is the Micons [Ministry of Construction]. The instability of the Micons labor force is very harmful to the country. That competition by which the various agencies take labor away from the Micons is harmful. It has been explained here. For one reason or another, they pay higher wages and take labor away from the Micons. It's impressive to see in the report that Micons has trained I don't know how many people—many thousands—in 5 years. Homero [Crabb] says that they trained 10,000 masons and they were left with 1,800.

A new industry also needs masons for maintenance work; it needs electricians, carpenters. This industry may offer a better wage, perhaps. It offers job stability, a job in just one place, perhaps near the worker's house, and it takes labor away from Micons. It's not good for the country for Micons to be weakened. There will always be those problems; this is only natural. [end recording]

The commander in chief was referring to the minibrigade forces in the capital and the work of Micons. [passage omitted]

Castro on Development

FL0707031088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2352 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Report by Leydis Montoya from the Lazaro Pena Theater in Havana]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has just concluded the speech closing the sixth construction congress. We offer the last part of his speech, which lasted more than 2 hours and 40 minutes.

[Begin Castro recording] We have to unleash the development of the productive forces, not with capitalist methods but with revolutionary methods, with socialist methods. In the same way, I believe we are going to unleash and we are already unleashing the development of the construction forces, of the productive forces in construction with revolutionary methods, with socialist methods. Fatherland or death, we shall win. [applause] [end recording]

Castro Praises Work

FL0707034888 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, closed the sixth congress of construction workers a few moments ago. Here are more details:

[Begin Castro recording] We have to develop the country. That is our number one job. The country's development depends in large part on the construction sector. I am not saying that other sectors are not important. I believe that all sectors are important for one reason or another. The sugar sector is very important as a source of foreign exchange and income. Education, health, services, basic industry, agriculture are important. All these activities are very important.

I was trying to summarize the idea in a single phrase, namely, that the construction sector is the most basic of them all. Construction activity is the most basic activity for the country's development. [end recording]

Earlier, the just elected national secretariat of the SNTC was introduced. Luis Brito Jimenez was elected secretary general. He had chaired the committee set up last year to organize the congress. Another high point in the proceedings was the moment when Fidel presented a beautiful autographed banner to the chief of the Bulgarian brigade bearing his name on the brigade's 30th anniversary.

Our commander in chief further said:

[Begin Castro recording] I am going to be very honest and tell you that I was impressed with the delegates' speeches. I have not seen them covered in any newspaper or any other media. I don't know if it will be possible to have them reported. However, yesterday's speeches by the delegates to this congress were really impressive as a rule, as a rule. [repeats himself] I think this is evidence that truly very valuable comrades were selected to take part in this congress. Another feature evident yesterday was the fact that those who spoke were not only workers' delegates. Representatives of production organizations also spoke, as did management representatives. When they spoke, you could not tell if it was a worker speaking or if it was the chief engineer or a manager. You could detect in all of them a great identification with the present task our construction workers have before them.

There were good speeches by some technicians. There were good speeches by some officials. We could mention the case of the comrade from the laminating brigade from Las Tunas. But, above all, and as is logical, since this is a workers' congress, there were brilliant speeches by the workers. These were speeches by comrades who are not doctors, university graduates, philosophers, but who spoke here like true philosophers of labor.

I can't recall any other event involving construction—in fact, I don't recall any other event, any other labor congress like this—in which time was employed so efficiently to say the things that had to be said so that we could become aware not only of persistent problems and difficulties, but also of the successes we are achieving and of the vistas opening before our eyes. [end recording]

Raul Castro Marks Anniversary of FAR Academy

FL0507180088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz has sent a message of congratulations to the FAR's General Maximo Gomez Academy on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary, says the message, and for the work performed over these years, I convey to you my most sincere and fraternal congratulations, convinced that you will continue working to enrich Cuba's military art based on the concept of the war of all the peoples and that you will make that magnificent education center a permanent builder of highly-trained military cadres capable of successfully fulfilling the tasks conferred upon them by the party and the revolution for the defense of the fatherland.

Risquet: High-Level Meeting on Africa Possible

FL0607215588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1951 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Prior to ending a tour through African and European countries in reference to the situation in southwest Africa, Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo, announced the possibility of a high-level meeting on this same topic at the end of this month.

Shortly before arriving in Cuba yesterday, Risquet said in Portugal that the preparatory work will be completed and the principles will be established during the third stage of negotiations on the situation in southwest Africa, which begins on Monday in New York. We expect to hold a high-level meeting based on these principles by the end of July and the participants will work on draft agreements, added the Politburo member.

Risquet visited Portugal during the last stage of his European tour in which he reported to area governments on the progress of the negotiations.

During the press conference he held in Lisbon, Risquet said Portugal—the old metropolis of Angola and Mozambique because of its historical and cultural ties—carries a lot of weight and influence in that area. If Portugal adopts an active position along with the forces that want a negotiated solution in southern Africa, it would be a very valuable contribution, Risquet said.

The PCC Politburo member said that only days after the quadripartite meeting ended, a major attack was launched against Cuban-Angolan positions in Tchipa, southern Angola.

Risquet reiterated in Lisbon that Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council is one of the key points in the negotiations, but not the only one.

Returns From Tour

FL0607164088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has returned to our country after a 2-week tour of Africa and Europe.

The Cuban leader headed the Cuban-Angolan delegation at the Cairo talks. During his tour, Risquet was received by the presidents of Angola, Ethiopia, and Portugal and by other leaders in Italy and Belgium.

Further on 'Manipulation' of Information

FL0107234688 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish at 0030 GMT on 30 June carries on its "Wide View" program "The Manipulation of Information, Part Two." This week's guests are once again doctoral candidates and pollsters Julio Cesar Gonzalez and Emilio Sanchez Cartas.

Dimas says that the second part of this program on information manipulation is dedicated to the procedures used to manipulate information.

Gonzales begins by discussing "the problem of objectivity in imperialist information and propaganda media." He says that an "apparent objectivity" is presented which does not exist in reality. Gonzales refers to this

objectivity as more of a created effect rather than actual objectivity of information. The main aspect of this problem, he adds, is the manipulation of truth.

He explains that this is done in two ways. One way, he says, is by creating or causing a situation on the basis of a false fact. There is where the mechanisms of manipulation begin. Another way is by manipulating true facts. In other words, a fact is purposely misinterpreted.

Dimas cites a book on style by CBS' Dan Rather and says it shows how news media are manipulated. One example, he says, is how Rather proposes U.S.-USSR relations be reported. In particular, "U.S. declarations on arms control should indicate that the administration wants an agreement but the Soviet Union does not."

Later, Sanchez Cartas turns to human rights and gives an example of "the extent to which the United States will go" to "disinform." He refers to a USIA pamphlet containing statements by Cuban political prisoners. Then he shows a map of Cuba in that pamphlet and says: "Along with the other creations and lies presented here, we find a map that, according to them, shows the locations of prisons in Cuba." The camera shows a close-up shot of the map and Sanchez Cartas says: "What they show as one of the Cuban prisons in Havana is actually the National Psychiatric Hospital." They laugh and say no further comment is needed.

Dimas ends the program by saying that "one of the worst informed countries in the world is the United States." He adds that the examples just presented show very clearly why this is true. They are not discussing the matter of merely providing information but "providing it in a truly objective way."

National Bank Reports Debt, Trade Figures

FL0107191388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Today Cuba's foreign debt stands at $5.57 billion, according to National Bank reports. Last year it grew by $672 million. A little more than half of this figure represents credits obtained and the remainder is a result of the drop in the dollar rate, which hurts our sales of reserve oil. Cuban foreign trade recorded a surplus of $34 million as compared to the $289 million deficit at the close of 1986. The reasons for this are a more than 20-percent reduction in imports and an increase in non-sugar exports. According to the bank, the main exportable product was sugar, of which almost 6.5 million tons was sold.

Malmierca on Sugar Donation to Palestinians

FL0607162688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT Jul 88

[Text] Our country will donate 500 tons of sugar to the Palestinians who live in Israeli-occupied territories. This was announced during a meeting held between the minister of foreign relations of Cuba [Isidoro Malmierca] and 'Imar 'Iddah, PLO ambassador to Cuba.

The donation represents a new gesture of solidarity from the Cuban party, government, and people with the just cause of the Palestinians, who in the past 200 days have been carrying out civil protest actions because of the brutal repression of Zionist forces.

Dominica

Creation of United Workers Party Announced

FL0607162188 Bridgetown CANA in English 1448 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, July 6, CANA—After weeks of speculation, the formation of a new political party in Dominica was formally announced on Tuesday. In a statement, the founders said the decision to establish the Dominica United Workers Party was taken at a meeting last Sunday. A steering committee has been set up to recruit members and look after other party matters, pending the holding of a convention "as soon as possible."

Chairman of the six-member steering committee is agronomist Edison James, a former manager of the Dominica Banana Marketing Corporation. Other members of the committee are Julius Timothy, Thomas Etienne, Augustus Emanuel, businessman Norris Prevost, and insurance executive John Rolle.

The statement said: A group of persons who accept a democratic form of government and who are interested in the sound and orderly development of the political, social, moral, cultural, and economic welfare of the people of Dominica, decided to be founder members of a new political party named the Dominica United Workers Party.

The group is deeply concerned about the erosion of basic democratic rights, the high-handed approach to the business of the state, the state of fear in the nation, the organised victimisation of workers, the division and polarisation of the people, and the need for a credible alternative government, the statement added.

The new party is the third operating in this Caribbean island.

Reportage on 6 July National Elections

'Incidents' Reported

PA0707022688 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0115 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] We are at the Revolutionary Hall at the Government Secretariat, where, in a few minutes, the fourth working session of the Federal Electoral Commission [CFE] will be resumed.

As we have said before, the CFE includes representatives from all the political parties, who are observing the electoral process, and follows up on incidents reported to the CFE, which is headed by Manuel Bartlett Diaz.

In the preceding session, which ended at approximately 1530, the political parties reported certain incidents that occurred at some of the polling places throughout the nation, which have in no way marred the electoral process. As was stated here, they were the result of the excitement generated by a civic activity, such as the one that is under way in the country.

In the preceding session, the CFE decided to pass on to the Attorney General's Office a statement made on a television program by seven opposition parties, because the CFE does not agree with its content. Also presented during the session was an article in a weekly magazine that predicts the victory of the PRI candidate. The magazine, which will be released officially tomorrow, contains an editorial that presupposes a Salinas de Gortari victory. These charges were presented here by the opposition parties.

Among the incidents reported by the political parties is that involving Jose Luis Meza. Representatives of the PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution] in Tacambaro, Michoacan, have asked that he be released. Jose Luis Meza was arrested during the period in which the CFE's third working session was under way. The CFE will submit a petition asking for his release, without implying a halt in the proceedings and investigations in this regard, since the resolution adopted in the third session indicated that votes had been stolen in Tacambaro. These were the main events covered in the third working session.

Official: Voting Normal

PA0707032788 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0210 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Report on interview with Amado Rodriguez, coordinator of the Electoral Orientation Center, by unidentified reporter; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] This is the first time in Mexico's electoral history, as Manuel Bartlett said this morning, that the results of the elections will be immediately announced to the public as they become available. This is provided for in the new Federal Electoral Code. The former law established a minimum of 8 days for the announcement of the results.

By this time, the results of the voting will already be known in many places, since one of the provisions of the new code is that the records of the day be posted in a visible location at each polling place. However, the CFE here has not yet begun to receive the data that it will release itself as the supervisory electoral organization. The preliminary results will be released in the course of the evening, since the final count will take place [words indistinct] as (Jose Neuman), director of the National Electoral Registry, has said.

The CFE president said that a special effort will be made to see that the district commissions receive the greatest possible amount of information from the polling places, so that by the end of the day, nationwide data will be available to allow the people to have the preliminary results that most closely approximate the final results, which will be released on Sunday [10 July], when the district count will have been completed.

There has been great activity here today, as well as in the Electoral Orientation Center. Here with us is Amado Rodriguez, the coordinator of the orientation center:

[Reporter] Sir, what would you say has been the major problem at the polling places today, and how have those problems been resolved?

[Rodriguez] Well, in the first place, I would like to say... [18-second break in reception] that the officials did not show up, but this was overcome early in the morning. Since 0800, the 333 electoral organizations have been in permanent session. At the CFE, the top electoral organization, a mechanism was established for the electoral parties to report to the Technical Secretariat—on instructions from CFE President Manuel Bartlett—all the irregularities they detect in the course of the electoral process. I would like to say that all of these reports have been looked into expeditiously.

The main irregularities involved the installation of the polling tables, the lack of accreditation of the representatives at certain polling places, and the change in location of certain polling places for various reasons—and I should note that the Federal Electoral Code authorizes such changes.

A few minutes ago, we heard the technical secretary of one board of directors at a polling place—which was reportedly closed ahead of time—explain that the problem was that there were still voters in line at the time, but since there were no electric lights, the members of the board of directors reached an agreement with all the representatives to move the polling place, leaving an announcement in the former location, so that the people could continue voting in a place where there was electricity. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Sir, could you say that in general there were no major incidents?

[Rodriguez] It would be premature to say something like that at this time, since we do not have the information from all the polling places, but judging from the irregularities reported by the political parties—which occurred at a very small number of polling places and federal precincts—we can say that, in general, the electoral process was carried out normally. I do not believe that those irregularities could be a pretext for a generalized statement that the elections were not carried out according to the law.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

2 Killed in Incidents

PA0707043288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0406 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Jul (EFE)—It has been officially announced that two people were shot to death in different incidents that occurred today in Mexico during the elections.

In Izucar de Matamoras, Puebla State, local police reported that a member of the ruling PRI was killed as he was returning home after having cast his vote.

The second victim, whose identity is unknown, was killed in Texcoco, a city near the capital, in an armed confrontation with members of the Army for unspecified reasons, according to military authorities.

In addition, a third person died, apparently of a heart attack, in a section of Mexico City as he was about to vote.

Opposition Contests Results

PA0707065588 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0622 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tonight the leaders of the Mexican opposition parties contested the Mexican electoral process. This evening National Action Party presidential candidate Manuel J. Clouthier, National Democratic Front presidential candiate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, and Revolutionary Workers Party presidential candidate Rosario Ibarra de Piedra presented a document to Manuel Bartlett, president of the CFE. In the document, the three presidential candidates threatened to disregard the results of today's election if the government does not correct the alleged irregularities in the vote counting process and electoral evaluation [clarificacion electoral].

The meeting between the three candidates and Bartlett lasted 3 hours. After the meeting, standing on the stairs of the Government Ministry building, the three candidates read their document and also announced the answer given them by the president of the CFE. Bartlett told them that any proof of the charges expressed in the document will be accepted. The opposition candidates said the fact that the PRI has proclaimed its triumph makes them fear that there was fraud. Secretary Bartlett told them that the only valid electoral results will be released by the CFE. Government Secretary Bartlett has announced that after 0100 or 0130, he will make a statement. We will be alert to this statement, and we will continue to report.

CFE Head on Fraud Charges

PA0707102688 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0752 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Statement by Manuel Bartlett, CFE president and government minister, at PRI headquarters in Mexico City—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...and discussion. They gave me a document that they have termed a call for legality. That document, as you all know, contains several charges about the elections that are still underway and which must be commented on because they have been made to the news media here and in several other places. The document mentions respect for legality, and it makes several charges that are not substantiated by any facts. We have had a clean, open election in which the complaints and worries of the parties have been heard and acted upon. There is no doubt that the complaints refer to a small number of ballot boxes out of all those used throughout the country. A commissioner from one of the parties said here that the charges of irregularities could be considered very minor and admitted that was all that was known, although this might be expanded upon. I repeat that the statements contained in that document do not correspond to what the nation has experienced in the last few hours.

In my talk with the candidates and the commissioners and party leaders who accompanied us, I told them what I am now saying publicly: That their statements did not correspond to what had taken place in view of the public and with the participation of millions of Mexicans throughout the country. I further said that I felt—as I have said many times—that we all have a responsibility to speak the truth and to have proof of our assertions. At 1700, the time the document was written, there were still more than 10,000 ballot boxes open, and the Mexican people were still voting, so it was not possible to reach such a conclusion. I felt it was contrary to the very point they were making in the document—the demand for a legal democratic process—to present such arguments the way they did, in public—and their various spokesmen have continued to do so in successive public statements—when the charges of illegality and fraud cannot be substantiated.

We have had an election during which we strictly abided by the law; we used a new law that establishes new guarantees for all parties and citizens; we have followed a pattern that no one can object to; we have given the parties all types of guarantees; and we have participated in an election like the one we had today. Therefore, making such groundless statements is against the law. They overlooked the fact that at that very moment, the verification of the votes was taking place at all the polling tables. We must still wait for the district vote

count, and then the final count. At that time, the political parties will have the right, and obligation, to contest the election and present any proof they may have.

I feel that disregarding the law when the last phase of the electoral process has not been completed and declaring to the Mexican people and foreigners that this process has been illegal is in violation of the basic norms of political courtesy.

I have rejected this document because of the terms under which it was presented and because I consider it untimely. This document has been presented without proof. In addition, those political parties have every right to go before the appropriate authorities to state and present proof of all that they have stated in this document that they drafted in such a rash manner.

I accepted the document and told the presidential candidates and other delegates that I respect the law and that I would present this document to the CFE. I also added that I hope they will present proof to back all these charges. Some of the candidates said they had proof to back each of their charges. I told them, just as I am telling you now, that all these charges must be supported with sufficient proof. We followed the established guidelines throughout this electoral process. Therefore, I feel, and I state so publicly, that it is not fair to say this has been a fraudulent election. I feel this is a groundless statement, especially since the electoral process has not ended.

The process continues and it will continue as established in our electoral law. We want the process to continue with the help of all the political parties and in good faith. This is what a political process should be like in a country that demands democracy, truth, and good faith. We must not forget our responsibility to the Mexican people; we can make charges, but we must also present proof. It is not right to start an election, take part in it, and condemn it even before it is over, without proof.

We are going to continue the electoral process as established by the law. We are going to refute each of those statements. The vote count in the districts will begin in a few hours. We are going to ask the political parties that presented this document to use the right given them by the law and participate, with responsibility, in the count. Mexico's future is at stake and the Mexican people want democracy, but they also want truth. The Mexican people want honesty and good faith.

Commission members, I have spoken freely today. You have the same right and I ask you to use that right and let us bring these charges up in every district, let us discuss and analyze these charges. As I said this morning and repeated this afternoon, let us discuss and analyze these charges without hiding behind empty words, solutions, or ideas. Let us do this with a political mentality but also respecting political ethics.

Let us continue with the process. There is still much to be done. The Mexican people are demanding that we do what we have been appointed to do.

Thank you.

PRI Proclaims Victory

PA0707085388 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0733 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Statement by Jorge de la Vega, president of the PRI National Executive Committee, speaking on behalf of the National Executive Committee during event held at the party headquarters in Mexico City—live]

[Text] Companeros leaders of our party, companeras and companeros: The electoral process ended today with a great triumph for the nation and for democracy. Throughout the past 9 months, we carried out the biggest and most intense political campaign we can remember. This electoral campaign was surrounded by unity—the PRI's greatest strength—enthusiasm, and growing participation on the part of the people. It advanced our democracy and that of the Mexican revolutionary forces.

This long period of competition among the political parties ended today with the largest number of voters in our history casting their votes. With their vote, millions of citizens made their choice from among the different parties, platforms, and candidates. The Mexican people once again showed they are a sensible and mature people. These elections, held in a climate of peace, safety, freedom, and respect for the law, have proven this. The PRI expresses its pleasure with regard to these elections that exalt the Mexican people and endorse the validity of our institutions. The PRI promised to keep order, abide by the law, hold clean elections, and to respect the results; the PRI kept its promise.

The National Executive Committee wishes to congratulate all the members of the PRI throughout the country and praise the loyalty, responsibility, and efficient party work carried out by its members, from the tiniest regional committee, territorial leadership, to the work done by our women's and youths' organizations. You have done your share for the party, you have done your share for Mexico. [applause]

PRI companeros, at this moment we are receiving from party representatives and delegates from throughout the country, even from distant places, information that confirms our overwhelming, legal, and irrefutable triumph. [applause, slogans] With this information that we are receiving from around the country, we can state that the people, in freedom and democracy, voted in favor of the Mexican who will lead the nation for the next 6 years. Mexico triumphed. Mexico gave the victory to Carlos Salinas de Gortari. [applause, slogans]

Companeros, on behalf of our party, I advise the Mexican people of the overwhelming triumph of our presidential candidate. The official results will be announced by the CFE. Carlos Salinas de Gortari has asked me to express to you his enthusiastic and heartfelt greetings and to express his appreciation for the votes that our party members and supporters cast in his favor, votes that have given him this victory. Salinas de Gortari also wishes to reiterate that abiding by his respect for the law, he wishes to meet with you once the CFE issues the final results, which will represent a victory for our party.

PRI members, long live the PRI! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"]

Long live the Mexican revolution! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"]

Long live Carlos Salinas de Gortari! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"]

Salinas Cancels News Conference

PA0707085988 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0759 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 7 Jul (DPA)—Without waiting for the preliminary results promised by the CFE, early this morning the ruling PRI proclaimed the "overwhelming, legal, and irrefutable triumph" of its candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Carlos Salinas de Gortari canceled the news conference he scheduled for midnight, Wednesday, and his party has refrained from offering any election results, as had been promised earlier this evening. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Castillo on Legality of Duarte Resuming Power

PA0707011188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2257 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Next Monday Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte will return to the country to reassume the Presidency. The announcement was made today by acting President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount.

He added that the return of Duarte, who has been in the United States for 1 month while being treated for stomach and liver cancer, "presents a big problem, because there are no legal provisions for holding the Presidency in the physical condition he is in."

According to Castillo, the Constitution does not provide for a situation "such as this one. We have no historical precedent or laws on the books to address this situation."

Castillo added that the president must make a political decision as to the government's direction, "because his responsibilities cannot be delegated, and the duty of the vice president is to replace him either temporarily or indefinitely."

This morning Castillo attended a graduation ceremony for 95 policemen, including 19 women, on the 121st anniversary of the establishment of the national police. The ceremony was held at police headquarters.

Castillo said he does not know what Duarte's physical condition will be on his return to the country, adding that he [Castillo] had "assumed the role of governing the country with responsibility" during the past 6 weeks and that during that time, "political control was never lost."

The acting president said that the emergency bill submitted by the executive branch to the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday "represents an effort to fill a legal vacuum that will permit us to declare states of emergency in the country."

"We have been facing a Marxist-Leninist insurrection for more than 8 years, sponsored and promoted from abroad. Therefore, we need a legal instrument to control, within the norms of the political Constitution, the insurrection promoted by the guerrillas," he said.

Witness: U.S. Embassy Security Head Shot Romero

PA0607225888 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Another possible witness to San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero's murder has appeared. Graciano de Jesus Romero, a Mariona Prison inmate, has charged Alfredo Zapata, former U.S. Embassy security chief—who was also murdered—with shooting and killing Msgr Romero. The inmate said that he was the driver of the vehicle used by Msgr Romero's killers.

[Begin recording] [Romero] I applied for a job at the U.S. Embassy through Zapata on 24 March 1980. I did not get the job because I did not report for work that day. I failed to report because I heard that this crime had been committed.

I was unjustly sentenced. People who had nothing to do with this case have been mentioned in connection with this crime. I now voluntarily make a public statement as an eyewitness to the deed, because I want to prevent a similar injustice from happening.

[Reporter] Who fired the shots at Msgr Romero?

[Romero] Zapata, who was accompanied by other U.S. Embassy security personnel.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Romero] Maybe, but I am not sure because I was only the driver. [end recording]

Romero, who was sentenced to death for conspiracy to commit murder, said he requested a hearing before the fourth penal judge to make formal statements and to produce evidence with regard to Msgr Romero's murder. The judge and the commission assigned to the case ignored his remarks.

The San Salvador archbishop was killed by a gunshot through his heart on 24 March 1980 while he officiated a mass at the Divine Providence Church in San Salvador. Violent disturbances erupted in San Salvador hours later. Eight years after Msgr Romero's death, the killers' identities have been impossible to determine.

The government has announced that it has a clue to the killers' identities, but time is passing and the possibility exists that the evidence could be used as a political instrument. The government, however, has identified the weapon used as a .22-caliber rifle and the fatal bullet as an explosive one. The authorities have also reported that they have in custody Amado Antonio Garay, who has also admitted to being the driver of the vehicle involved in the murder.

[Begin Garay recording] If Romero served as an accomplice, the commission could test what he has claimed through a reenactment. [end recording]

The government also charged Captain Alvaro Saravia with being one of the masterminds of Msgr Romero's murder. Saravia, who fled Salvadoran justice authorities, is serving time in a U.S. prison. The Salvadoran Government has requested his extradition.

Guatemala

Cerezo Comments on Recent Economic Measures

PA0607195888 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Jul 88 p 19

[Excerpts] Last night Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said that fuel prices will increase with the implementation of the uniform exchange rate. He added that the government will counter the impact of the uniform rate with several measures and requested the people's help.

The president spoke to the nation via a radio and television network address. He was accompanied by cabinet members, the Guatemalan Bank president, the Monetary Council president, and presidential staff.

Cerezo explained that the uniform exchange rate is a temporary measure that will stabilize the national economy. The uniform rate will aid in reducing expenses when buying foreign products, increase the country's foreign exchange, stabilize prices, promote economic revitalization, and improve the outlook for investment and employment, he said. [passage omitted]

The president also announced measures to diminish the impact of the uniform exchange rate. These measures include agricultural fairs, fertilizer and insecticide distribution, price stabilization, salary increases, and government works in different parts of the country.

Cerezo asked Guatemalans to help fight the psychological effects of the uniform exchange rate. He said that housewives, believing that prices were going to increase, ran to the supermarkets to stock up on basic products and that the same thing happened with gasoline. He added, however, that this distrustful attitude only causes prices to rise.

President Cerezo reported that the U.S. Secretary of State's visit to Guatemala was beneficial since he brought with him $75 million in financial assistance. Cerezo stressed that this was not a loan to be added to the country's foreign debt, as many thought, but a contribution to the country's economy. [passage omitted]

Demonstrators Protest Policy

PA0607221888 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Despite the rain falling on the capital since noon, today approximately 6,000 people demonstrated against the Christian Democratic government's economic policy.

The demonstration, which was called by the Labor and Popular Action Union, UASP, might be only one of several means of pressure that could lead to a complete work stoppage in public and private businesses and offices controlled by labor organizations affiliated with the UASP. Among other demands, these organizations are demanding that the government reestablish price ceilings for staple products, because economic policy changes are seriously affecting a majority of the people.

During the demonstration, Juan Francisco Alfaro Mijangos, secretary general of the Guatemalan Confederation for Trade Union Unity, said protests against the high cost of living could be expanded nationwide:

[Begin Alfaro recording] This demonstration is only the beginning of our activities. For the past 2 and ½ years, we have been burdened by a mistaken economic policy. It is necessary... [changes thought] We thought we could reach agreements during the first few months this year, and that is why we signed an accord with the president and his government. Those agreements did not materialize, however.

We are therefore forced to take stronger measures. This is only the beginning. We plan to demonstrate in neighborhoods, municipalities, and departments. We might call for actions to show the people's dissatisfaction, from the banging of pots and pans to a national strike. [end recording]

Honduras

Army Rotations, Transfers Announced

PA0607221488 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Jul 88 p 3

[Announcement issued by the Public Relations Directorate of the Armed Forces in Tegucigalpa on 5 July]

[Text] The Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate announces the following to the national public:

1. That on this date and according to orders from the Honduran Armed Forces High Command, the rotation and transfers of the following posts and unit commands within the Army become effective:

Infantry Colonel DEM [Command and General Staff Graduate] Alvaro Antonio Romero has been appointed inspector general of the Army; Infantry Colonel DEM Lazaro Avila Soleno will now be commander of the 105th Infantry Brigade; Infantry Lieutenant Colonel DEM Jose Osiris O'Connor Pena will assume command of the 3d Infantry Battalion; Infantry Colonel DEM Celan Meza Pineda has been appointed commander of the 6th Infantry Battalion; and Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Carvajal Molina will assume command of the 15th Infantry Battalion.

2. The appointment of these officers is of a routine nature and is in accordance with the system of rotations, transfers, and promotions contained in the Armed Forces law.

Tegucigalpa, 5 July 1988
Public Relations Directorate
Honduran Armed Forces

Government 'Regrets' Iranian Airline Downing

PA0607171088 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Jul 88 p 2

["Press communique" No 055-88 issued by the Information and Press Office of the Foreign Ministry in Tegucigalpa on 5 July]

[Text] On the occasion of the tragic incident that occurred in the Persian Gulf that led to the downing of an Iranian commercial aircraft and the death of 290 people, the Foreign Ministry hereby voices the following to the national and international community:

1. The government of Honduras deeply regrets this tragedy that has caused world grief.

2. This is another sorrowful consequence of the prolonged violence affecting that area, where there is indiscriminate destruction and death.

3. In accordance with its belief that peace is necessary for mankind, the Government of Honduras reiterates the call it made at the United Nations to all parties involved to intensify their efforts and to put an end to the armed conflict so that normalcy can be restored in that region.

Tegucigalpa, D.C., 5 July 1988
Information and Press Office, Foreign Ministry

Nicaragua

Tinoco Protest Note to Shultz on Contra Attacks

PA0607040988 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0305 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Letter sent by Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz—dated 5 July]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz,

I hereby address you to report the following:

At 0845 on 4 July, an unknown number of counterrevolutionaries ambushed a truck and a four-wheel-drive vehicle carrying a number of soldiers and civilians. In the attack, which occurred at the Buenos Aires area, 19 km southeast of Acoyapa, Chontales Department, the counterrevolutionaries used rocket launchers, antitank mines, M-79 grenade launchers, and rifle fire to kill 12 people, including 7 civilians. Ten others were wounded. Of these, three soldiers and two civilians are critically injured.

Those murdered are Justo Espino Henriquez, Jose Andres Villegas, Sabina Duarte Obregon, Concepcion Picado Pineda, Ursula Perez Mendoza, Manuelita Mendoza Mejia, Ana Julia Hernandez, Matilde Padilla Cruz, Wilfredo Carrasco Espinosa, Tranquilino Hurtado Chavez, Miguel Antonio Herrera Alvarado, and Mauricio Reyes. The wounded civilians are Rosa Rios Rubio Guevara and Marisa Pineda.

In addition, on 29 June, a number of counterrevolutionaries kidnapped 11 civilians, including a child, from Belen, 10 km southeast of El Tortuguero, Chontales Department. Among those kidnapped are Santos Vanegas, Paula Vanegas, Mario Vanegas, Concepcion Vanegas, Antonio Amador, Gloria Suarez, Paula Cabrales, Braulio Gonzalez, and Zacarias Gonzalez.

This situation indicates that your visit to Central America, which did not include Nicaragua, has exacerbated the contras' attacks on civilian targets and encouraged the continuation of offensive military operations. This policy aims to destroy the Sapoa agreement and to pave the way for your government to continue requesting military aid from the U.S. Congress, despite the agreement reached by the Central American presidents through Esquipulas II.

The Nicaraguan Government hereby formally and strongly protests these events, which indicate that your government continues to maintain a policy of force and terrorism in Central America in violation of the most basic standards of coexistence between states.

[Signed] Victor Hugo Tinoco, Vice Foreign Minister
Managua, 5 July 1988

'Sabotage Plan' Uncovered in Chontales

PA0607174088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Report on "Official Bulletin" from the Interior Ministry by Maria Reyes of the EPS Public Relations Office in Juigalpa, Chontales—date not given]

[Text] Twelve people were captured and explosive materials, including antitank mines, were seized by Interior Ministry forces in Juigalpa, Chontales. A sabotage plan, which was to be carried out during the celebration of the 9th anniversary of the Sandinist people's revolution, was also uncovered and immediately quashed in Santo Domingo, Chontales.

We repeat, 12 people were captured and explosive materials, including antitank mines, were seized during the operation. This material was going to be used to blow up bridges, gasoline stations, and electric energy towers, and to stage a number of terrorist actions against the people.

Panama

Solis Calls Assembly Session on Electoral Code

PA0407235088 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] In exercising his legal powers, President Manuel Solis Palma has convoked special Legislative Assembly sessions from 18 July to 31 August 1988 to discuss a bill "by which Electoral Code articles are substituted, added, or abrogated."

The announcement was made through Executive Decree No 48 of 30 June 1988, which states that the sessions were scheduled to discuss a bill containing amendments to the Electoral Code presented by the Electoral Tribunal to President Manuel Solis Palma. In presenting the bill, the Electoral Tribunal stated that "the application of the Electoral Law during the 1984 elections required making calculations for a population distribution of 917,677 voters; since the number of voters will be considerably higher for the 1989 elections, the electoral regulations must be updated in order to adapt them to the country's requirements that became evident in the previous elections. [quotation mark as published]

The note to President Solis Palma added that "the Electoral Tribunal has made efforts and has shown its willingness to improve the current electoral laws by systematically calling on representatives from organized political parties and from parties that are in the process of formation to exchange views regarding possible amendments to the Electoral Code, which will be discussed by the Legislative Assembly."

Decree No 48 states that the draft bill is the result of the hard and complex work by the Electoral Tribunal and political parties, which accepted the invitation from the highest electoral institution to present modifications that would guarantee honest elections reflecting the wishes of the national electorate's majority.

The decree adds that holding orderly and unrestricted elections in 1989 would strengthen the democratic system as established in the Panamanian Constitution.

The document recommends that following a broad consultation with the country's political sectors and a profound debate on the electoral laws, the Legislative Assembly should provide the Panamanian people with an electoral instrument that would guarantee elections that faithfully reflect the desire of the majority of the Panamanian people. It adds that the electoral regulations must be published well in advance so that political parties and candidates know the rules and regulations that will govern the 1989 elections, regarded by the national government as its highest priority.

Ritter on Group of 8 Meeting, Shultz Visit

PA0207023488 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Report by Rigoberto Dumas Castillero—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter has referred to the results of the meeting held in Mexico by the Group of Seven and Panama's participation in a meeting with the Contadora Group:

[Ritter] "[Passage omitted] I feel there has been much speculation about Panama's participation in the Group of Eight and its possible return to it. I went to Mexico to a meeting of the Contadora and Support Groups, which happened to take place at the same time and in the same country as the Group of Eight meeting in Oaxaca. There was absolutely no intention, however, of discussing the topic of Panama and much less of making a decision at that time about its return." [passage omitted]

Regarding the Contadora Group, the Panamanian foreign minister said:

[Ritter] "I believe the foreign ministers of the Group will be the ones who will have to find time to make the appropriate evaluation. I do not want to anticipate or speculate as to what those conditions are. One tends to look at things from far away, and then when one looks at things from a closer distance, we either confirm or deny what we thought. If we speculate from far away about what other countries think, we are doing just that: speculating. If we get closer to the foreign ministers and tell them about the Panamanian people's views on our country's situation, then they will either have to confirm or deny what they saw from far away. [passage omitted]

"Contadora's role has been limited to the Verification and Follow-Up Commission, but the role of Contadora and the Support Group has not ended. In view of the latest developments in the Central American peace process—about which we were concerned because there seemed to be a standstill—Contadora's mission continues to be as necessary as when it was created 5 years ago. [passage omitted]

"We are making contacts with all countries with which Panama has ties to try to get technical, financial, and economic aid. All developing countries—and even those like Panama, which is suffering from U.S. aggression—must resort to more developed countries in search of that aid."

Regarding Shultz' visit to Central America, the Panamanian foreign minister said the following:

"If the United States is still thinking about a military option and about financing and promoting war in Nicaragua, of course this will not contribute—and the Contadora communique pointed this out—to peace. The Contadora Group has specifically called for an end to all aid to irregular forces. In addition, the Contadora Group has called for an end to threats of a military intervention in an effort to contribute to peace. If Shultz is coming with these intentions in mind, he is welcome; otherwise, I believe the consequences will be disastrous for Central America." [passage omitted]

PRD Protests Downing of Iranian Airbus

PA0607154288 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Jul 88 pp 1-A, 7-B

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) in Panama City on 4 July]

[Text] The PRD, which advocates nonalignment as one of its basic principles, vigorously protests the bewildering and horrifying action carried out by the Reagan administration against an Iranian passenger plane.

The deaths of almost 300 people, including children, women, and civilian personnel who had nothing at all to do with the fighting, demonstrate the extreme danger of a foreign policy based on aggression and predominance.

With or without interventions, the policy advocated by the U.S. Administration leads toward actions that violate the principles and norms of international coexistence. The PRD does not believe it is important whether this horrible crime is the result of a deliberate order or inexcusable negligence. The important thing is that the presence in the region of the U.S. military, which is determined to solve international conflicts with the use of force, makes the U.S. Government responsible for this crime and arouses the resolute repudiation of all the peoples of the world.

We express our solidarity with the pain of the Iranian people, and we join all the voices and all efforts advocating each country's right to resolve its problems without the meddling of those who think they are the international police.

4 July 1988
Romulo Escobar, President; Carlos Ozores, Secretary General

Rognoni: Exports Normal, Economy Recovering

PA0707035688 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Report on interview with Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni by Rigoberto Dumas Castillero; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Dumas] Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni told Radio Nacional that exports have continued normally. Here is his statement:

[Rognoni] "So far exports continue normally. Activities in the Colon Free Zone are normal, although they have dropped 15 percent compared to last year, which was a record year for the Free Zone. Exports of traditional products such as shrimp and bananas are good."

[Dumas] Regarding the closing of some businesses due to the country's current crisis, Minister Rognoni said:

[Rognoni] "The most affected industries are those related to construction activities, which have been badly affected, and some industries in the domestic market. In some cases, domestic consumption has dropped approximately 50 percent. Export industries continue working normally, however.

[Dumas] "Some industries that had closed have called their employees back to work. Do you feel that this reflects an improvement in the national economy?

[Rognoni] "Definitely so. The economy is recovering by sectors. The state's interest now is strengthening sectors that are still weak so they can cope with the situation."

Industrialist on 'Catastrophic Economic Crisis'

PA0707042688 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Statement by Carlos Valencia, president of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP); date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] I would say that a large proportion of the population wants justice and freedom and to live under a genuine democracy. The present regime has caused the repercussions on the economy that we all can see. The conflict has resulted in the economic catastrophe we are experiencing, which we would describe as not only the worst recession that this country has ever experienced, but one of the most serious and extensive economic recessions in recent history in countries that are not in a state of war.

Therefore, the political crisis is the result of the great conflict that exists between large sectors of the population—which are demanding justice, freedom, and democracy—and the regime. This in turn has caused the economic crisis we are experiencing, which has turned into a truly catastrophic economic crisis.

This crisis shows signs of growing worse and even deeper. For the economy to recover, banks must begin operating normally by canceling restrictions on fixed-term deposits, other current accounts, and savings accounts. In addition, banks must have the capacity to increase credits, which have dried up in Panama, so that production activities can expand.

This is far from being accomplished given the current situation. The easing of restrictions from 25 percent [as heard] to 40 percent—which is what has been done on current accounts—will have some impact, but it will be minimal; it is a step in the right direction, but will not have a significant impact.

Health Minister: $200 Million Loss Due to U.S.

PA0707033788 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Panamanian Health Minister Dr Francisco Sanchez Cardenas has estimated that the Reagan administration's aggression has resulted in $200 million worth of damages to the health sector. In an interview with the National Information System [SNI], Minister Sanchez Cardenas pointed out that this figure results from an evaluation of the economic impact of the aggression up to May on the health sector, which includes the Health Ministry; the National Water and Sanitation Institute, IDAAN; and the Metropolitan Garbage Collection Department, DIMA. The health minister also told SNI that the most serious damage caused by the U.S. aggression is to the country's state of health.

Banking Commission Eases Account Restrictions

PA0207043488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Today the National Banking Commission [CBN] agreed to ease banking restrictions on current accounts. CBN member Carlos de Sedas provides details:

[Begin De Sedas recording] In view of the situation created a few months ago with the closure of banks, we established a number of restrictions aimed at reopening the system. The system is now open. We recently had to extend restrictions on time savings; however, I believe it is important that the community know that this morning, during a regular CBN meeting, we agreed to ease restrictions on current accounts as a positive step toward normalizing the banking system.

As a result, current account holders will now have at their disposal 40 percent of previously restricted funds up to a maximum of $20,000. [end recording]

Assembly President on Facing Situation

PA0107154588 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Jun 88 pp 1, 6

[Speech by Legislative Assembly President Alberto Aleman Boyd at the closing of the Assembly's 4th regular session in Panama City—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] As everybody knows, this has been a period in which there have been serious economic restrictions, which have had a direct impact on the public and private sectors. All sectors of Panamanian society must be aware by now that this is an exhausting situation. However, it is in the face of adversity that people are obligated to rally if they are really worthy of a fully sovereign and dignified state. The economic difficulties that have affected the Assembly have not prevented us from facing the crisis with dignity and honor, and we can say we have always exhibited respect for the constitutional rules that regulate our behavior as a public institution that is comprised of diverse political and ideologic currents. [passage omitted]

The work that has been carried out is a source of satisfaction for us. It allows us to be optimistic in the midst of a difficult situation produced, basically, by an unjust and unprecedented aggression promoted and implemented by the United States. Most Panamanians have faced this aggression with valor and firmness. Therefore, there is nothing strange about the fact that this Assembly has resisted this aggression with courage and determination. We will continue resisting this way because we are convinced that it is the only way we will be able to build a promising future in this fatherland where we and our children will continue living forever.

Thank you very much.

CIA, Opposition Seek Nation's Destabilization

PA0107031088 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jun 88

[From the "Today in the World" program by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Intelligence sources have reported the presence in Panama of ranking CIA officer Colonel Dennis Caffrey. The famous U.S. CIA is establishing contact with opposition sectors to create new anti-Panamanian, antigovernment disturbances. This effort and Caffrey's presence are perfectly coordinated with a larger-scale operation included in the dark plans the United States has implemented as a result of its failure to impose on Panama a government capable of prolonging the Southern Command's presence, of authorizing new military bases, and of making Panama—for almost more than a century, the 21st century [as heard]—the empire's favorite Latin American colony.

Since Panama has shaken off that nickname, it must pay the price for its haughtiness. We are paying it, and some day today's youth will thank us for this sacrifice. [passage omitted]

'Torrijists Dissidents' Part of New U.S. Tactic

PA0407223588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "New Yankee Tactic: Torrijists Versus 'Torrijists'"]

[Text] One of the dismal and grim plots that the Yankee empire is preparing includes the use of a new tactic. The new tactic is being prepared in a building located in an area under U.S. control in the former Panama Canal Zone, under the leadership of a colonel who handled the elimination of Chile's constitutional government in 1973. The new tactic consists of pitting Torrijism and Torrijists against the jaded banner of "Torrijist dissidents." These dissidents are deserters and traitors who are now erasing with their elbows what they wrote with their left hands. [sentence as published]

It so happens that the Crusade lost its rallying power. The same thing happened with the teachers who undid the educational reforms. Judging by "opposition" political flyers, they lost their magic leadership over the Panamanian middle class. This group has been annoyed by the growth of the people's power, the crisis of capitalism, and low salaries. As a matter of fact, not even in the United States are the salaries of the so-called "liberal" professions as high as these salaries. The Authentic Panamamenist Party has also lost its huge rallying power for the causes of conspiracy, although it still maintains its great power over the elections. In other words, the three major Yankee beachheads are not doing their job. On 16 March 1988 [date of military coup attempt against General Manuel Antonio Noriega], these forces began to wane. That is why we now have the dissident "Torrijists" or outright anticommunists. (The fact is that no

communist party holds power in the government, but through their [not further identified] propaganda they try to persuade the public that "Noriega is throwing Torrijists out of the government and forcing anti-Torrijists into office." As things stand, this is how the empire would try to "rebuild" Torrijism, through an open military aggression endorsed by Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.)

Dialogue Needed To Achieve Reconstruction

PA0307225388 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Jul 88 pp A-4

[Editorial: "Theorization of the Panamanian Crisis"]

[Text] The country's political and economic crisis seems to have fallen into an extended lethargy over the last several weeks. At first glance, it seems that none of the political sectors involved in the rift have sought a healthy approach to the issue. Panamanian problems reached a stalemate when talks were broken off between Panama and U.S. Government leaders, and the people's interest and expectations declined.

Panamanians have sought ways to adapt to the new situation despite their weariness, suffering, and desperation. The two sides have brought the Panamanian crisis to a dead end. The so-called theoreticians of the Panamanian problem have arisen as a result of the cold relations and indifference. The theorizing has helped to distract the citizenry. While the empire of rhetoric takes over the social communication media and the social and political centers, an overpowering phantom that devours us silently and destroys us progressively has risen: the economic problem. All kinds of noisy demonstrations occurred when the Panamanian conflict began. These acts of social unrest drew our attention to the need for a dialogue and some kind of solution among Panamanians. Unfortunately, the same stridency that sometimes generated violence also provoked the United States' insolent and ferocious interference. The United States is to blame for the nation's ruinous situation because of their interference.

The country's economic problems worsened when the internal rift and the United States' intervention increased. Every mass dismissal from a private enterprise created an unusual reaction. The Panamanian people watched each of these cases with fear and concern.

Time passes and Panamanians have apparently become used to the situation—even tolerating and withstanding it. We cannot accept the atmosphere of apparent normalcy that prevails. Violent and strident events have fortunately disappeared, but this does not mean we should remain indifferent to the drama we are experiencing. A series of events that have been destroying our national economy lurk behind that silent exterior.

For example, a weak and hesitant attitude has characterized our actions in the banking arena, which is a very important economic sector. Restrictions on the use of funds by their legitimate owners remain. Private sector employees are still being dismissed, although without the initial uproar. Public services have decreased to levels that are extremely dangerous for the nation's destiny. The economy is alarmingly weak. We are silently marching toward total destruction. Our reserves are running out, and we are hopelessly advancing toward hunger and poverty. These facts are being covered up in the silence that surrounds us. The situation is perfectly well known by our political leaders.

While the silent monster devours us, the atmosphere of lethargy has served to hail the presence of political theoreticians and essayists on either side. The Panamanian people are tired of rhetoric. They demand practical and urgent solutions. Hunger and poverty lurk about us. An understanding among Panamanians could disarm once and for all the U.S. aggression we have withstood. A theorization of the crisis and dilatory tactics will only make us tired and indifferent. We will consequently fail to seek an understanding and will give up the search for solutions.

If we neglect the need for a dialogue and an understanding simply because an atmosphere of normalcy apparently prevails, we would be evading our real responsibility of guiding the homeland along the roads of harmony and national reconstruction.

Torrijos Adviser, Jurist on Current Situation

PA0107175488 [Editorial Report] Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 29 June broadcasts two 5-minute reports on interviews with Diogenes de la Rosa, negotiator of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and jurist Juan Materno Vasquez by an unidentified station reporter.

De la Rosa says: "The country's future is simply somber." He adds: "In recent times, sovereignty has been mixed with personal interests, and an 80-year heroic struggle has been turned into a shield to cover indecent acts."

Regarding the handing over of the Panama Canal by the United States to Panama in the year 2000, De la Rosa says: "The canal needs a new political structure that would link our efforts to meet the responsibility the management of the canal entails to the efforts of all Latin American countries. Nothing has been done in this regard. In addition, those who are responsible do not conceive what must be done with regard to Latin America, because this goes beyond their plans to stay in power by any means, and those means work against the interests of the interoceanic waterway in our hands. Our country cannot assume that responsibility without a strong national unity and without the resolution of our political problems, which will not be resolved with another fraudulent election next year."

Concerning the current situation, De la Rosa states that the country is living under a "fiercely repressive system heretofore unknown in our Republic's history." He adds that the country will not have peace "until it recovers its political and national identity, which would be expressed

by the will of the majority in a general election." De la Rosa says: "Torrijism is not a political theory or doctrine, but a practical model of development, which has failed and has come to an end."

With regard to finding a viable solution to the current crisis, De la Rosa says: "The country needs to be united." He adds: "That continues to be my thesis. We need true reconciliation. The country must attend a dialogue, but not a dialogue based on lies and masquerades, such as the one that has been taking place recently."

Concerning the role of the military in Panama, De la Rosa said: "Torrijos pointed to the correct role of the military when he described the return to the barracks as a national need and when he proclaimed the return of all military privileges to civilian control."

Vasquez criticizes the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal and questions its ability to plan the next presidential elections, adding that "it is impossible to maintain the idea of national reconciliation while there is mourning, tears, and anguish; while there are Panamanians in exile and people who fear that their houses could be attacked at any moment by thugs, who could be common criminals or thugs encouraged by the current situation."

Concerning Panamanian political parties, Vasquez states that part of the problem in Panama is that political parties are not assuming their roles as promoters of the public's political opinion and that idealist, civic movements—such as the Civic Crusade—are formed as a result of the lack of "political acumen." Vasquez believes the origin of Panama's problems is the creation of the "strong man," whose appearance originated with the tenure of former Panamanian President Jose Antonio Remon. Since then, Vasquez adds, Panamanian "strong men have determined Panama's political destiny." Vasquez goes on to ridicule the current Panamanian "strong man" and the way in which the Panamanian military has recently provoked the United States.

The report on this interview ends with Vasquez ridiculing the meeting of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of our America held at the Atlapa Convention Center, "which culminated with what was not perestroyka, but an extremely ridiculous act, a political trial against Ronald Reagan," Vasquez said.

PDC Reports Arrest of Party Province Leader

PA0607180288 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2004 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Panama City, 5 Jul (DPA)—Today Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC], reported in the Panamanian capital the arrest by Panamanian military troops of Chiriqui Province leader Jose Domingo Torres.

According to statements by Arias Calderon, Jose Domingo Torres, top PDC leader in Chiriqui Province, which borders Costa Rica, was arrested and taken to a military garrison, with no explanation as to the reason for his arrest.

The opposition leader warned the military authorities to respect human rights, adding that the party's legal machinery was in action to gain his quick release, since apparently there is no evidence to justify the action taken by the authorities of this Panamanian area.

FDP Detains U.S. Soldiers, Military Vehicle

PA0607140788 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 6 Jul 88 p 2

[By Rogelio Martiz]

[Text] Members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] substation in Veracruz, commanded by Sublieutenant Julian Vergara, captured a military armored vehicle in which three U.S. soldiers were traveling. The soldiers are believed to be members of the contingent recently deployed by the U.S. Government to intimidate the defenseless Panamanian people.

The arrested U.S. soldiers are: Lieutenant Andrew J. Johnson, Sergeant E-6 Edward E. Tate, and Sergeant E-5 Paul L. Coach. The members of the FDP captured the armored vehicle and arrested the soldiers at 1440 on Tuesday after spotting them while they were suspiciously roaming the area known as Costa del Sol, on the slopes of Cabra Hill, Veracruz Corregimiento.

The fact that the U.S. soldiers were traveling in a military vehicle—considered to be a sophisticated vehicle to be used in future military activities—proves that the U.S. Government is trying to intimidate the defenseless Panamanian people. Their presence in the area has been described as another violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties since the vehicle was stopped 1 and ½ km from the areas designated for the defense of the Panama Canal.

The armored military vehicle is a Hummer M-998, and it has multiple uses. Rocket launchers and 50-caliber machineguns can be mounted on the vehicle. It can also be used to transport troops and can move quickly in combat and over rough terrain.

The 1 and ¼ ton vehicle was equipped with a compass and three radios, which are undoubtedly used for spying purposes.

After being interrogated at the FDP substation in Veracruz, the three U.S. soldiers, currently stationed at the military base in Corozal, were handed over to U.S. authorities. Veracruz is a tourist town located on the Panamanian Pacific coast, Arraijan district, only 8 km from Panama City.

Panamanian authorities presented the U.S. Government with this latest violation of the the Torrijos-Carter treaties in light of the imminent threat of a military invasion by the exaggerated number of U.S. soldiers stationed in the Canal Zone.

[The article is accompanied by a front-page, 5 by 7 inch, black and white photo showing a military vehicle in front of which are standing three soldiers dressed in camouflage fatigues who are concealing their faces from the camera. The caption beneath the photo reads: "The three U.S. soldiers, hiding their faces from the camera, and the highly sophisticated armored military vehicle captured by members of the Panama Defense Forces in Veracruz, Arraijan district, after carrying out operations in violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and intimidating the Panamanian people with an imminent armed invasion by U.S. troops."]

Government Sets Up Canal Area Checkpoints

PA0407184688 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Jul 88 p 5

[From the "Confidential Report" column by Roberto Rolando Rodriguez]

[Text] An important operation is being conducted by several government agencies at various places to detect illegal alliens, people driving vehicles without the appropriate permits, and people carrying weapons without the required permits. All this is happening in areas near the canal.

Students Demonstrate Against Government

PA0407141188 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1346 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Since early this morning, student groups from the National Institute secondary school have gone out into the streets near the school to protest against the national government in the area near the corner of Martyrs Avenue [4th of July Avenue] and the street leading toward the Social Security offices. So far, they have not been intercepted by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and there has been no damage or violence. However, some FDP vehicles have gone to the area.

The students' peaceful demonstration is to protest the country's critical situation, and some student leaders said they were also protesting government corruption and the lack of action to resolve the country's grave problems, especially unemployment.

The national government had postponed the beginning of the school term precisely because of the fear of hostile demonstrations by students. However, it has been announced that any situation would be dealt with firmly.

Protest U.S. Parades

PA0507022988 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0006 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Today National Institute students protested the military parades at Fort Clayton and Fort Davis, located in the canal basin, to commemorate the 4th of July.

During the demonstration to express rejection [of the parades at the U.S. bases] and to reaffirm our national sovereignty, the students blocked Martyrs Avenue and chanted slogans against the exaggerated U.S. military presence in Panama and the aggression against our people who are fighting for the respect of our national dignity.

After the demonstration, the students withdrew from the area without any incidents.

Dignity Battalions' 4 July Ceremony Postponed

PA0307234788 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2256 GMT 3 Jul 88

["Special announcement"]

[Text] The public is hereby informed that the event that was to be held at Juan Demostenes Arosemena Stadium at 1000 on Monday, with the participation of the Dignity Battalions, has been postponed until further notice. All Dignity Battalion members must remain at their respective garrisons on a general alert beginning at 0700 tomorrow, Monday.

[Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, was scheduled to preside at a mass swearing-in ceremony for new members of the Dignity Battalions at the above-mentioned event. Government ministers and members of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) High Command, including FDP Commander in Chief Manuel Antonio Noriega, were also scheduled to attend the ceremony.]

Argentina

Iranian Envoy Comments on Downing of Plane

PY0607201088 Buenos Aires Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Statement by Iranian representative of Ayatollah Khomeini (Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Rabani) in Buenos Aires; date not given—recorded]

[Text] I believe all peoples and governments of the world feel solidarity with the Iranian people. Even the United States said the incident was regrettable.

How can a superpower, however, say it is regrettable? How can it explain the event to the children who lost their parents? How can it answer their questions?

With their radars they could identify the plane. Why did they attack it? I believe they have no answer to that. The entire world—all free beings—must shout against this aggression.

Parties To Protest Incident

PY0607235088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2120 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Jul (NA)—Today the PCA and the Workers Party for Socialism [Partido de Trabajadores por el Socialismo—PTS] agreed to repudiate the U.S. decision to bomb [as received] an Iranian plane, killing almost 300 people. The Movement Toward Socialism [Movimiento al Socialismo—MAS] called for a march tomorrow to condemn the attack and to demand the withdrawal of the U.S. fleet from the Persian Gulf.

In a statement issued today, the MAS claims the launching of a missile from a U.S. vessel "was no mistake," but the "direct result of having a fleet thousands of kilometers from the United States with the sole objective of thwarting the struggle of the Muslim people for their liberation."

The MAS statement adds: "Reagan and his imperial fleet have shed innocent blood in the Persian Gulf. It is a crime to which we all have to react." The statement also calls for a march tomorrow at 1830, beginning at Corrientes and Uruguay Streets in Buenos Aires.

The PCA, however, sent a telegram to Foreign Minister Dante Caputo asking him to make "a strong public statement on behalf of the people and government repudiating the brutal and cold-blooded murder of 300 Iranian civilians by the United States."

The PCA feels this "is a chance for Argentina to show its desire for integration with the Third World, promoting common actions that will condemn any violation of national dignity. It is not enough to be formal members of the Nonaligned Movement; we must start acting as such within the international community."

The PTS stated that U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf region "is part of the policy it is conducting to confront all peoples who struggle for their liberation, as it shows its support for the South African apartheid regime and the Nicaraguan contras."

The PTS claims that "while bodies were still being recovered from the Persian Gulf, the Argentine Government participated in the 4 July toast at the U.S. Embassy to greet Theodore Gildred, the ambassador of the Yankee murderers in Argentina, on the occasion of the U.S. independence anniversary."

Army Leadership Discussing Angeloz' Criticism

PY0607124388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2114 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 5 Jul (DYN)—According to Army sources, today Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dante Caridi, along with eight senior Army generals, reportedly decided against publicly responding to the criticism made by UCR presidential hopeful Eduardo Angeloz against General Leopoldo Galtieri, retired.

Nevertheless, the sources insisted upon conveying the "uneasiness" reportedly prevailing within the Army as a result of Angeloz's remarks on military issues.

"We just don't want to be used in the proselytism campaigns," said the sources, who disclosed that during the meeting a videotape was shown with the speech the Cordoba governor made during a rally closing his campaign at the Obras Sanitarias stadium.

The Army leadership meetings began today at 0830 in the Libertador building, Army headquarters, and will end tomorrow night. [passage omitted]

Navy Chief of Staff on Military Issues

PY0607180688 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 July 88 p 9

[Interview with Navy Chief of Staff Ramon Arosa by unidentified reporter—date, place not given]

[Text] HERALD: Are there fewer conscripts now than five years ago? How has the volunteer program worked?

Arosa: Eight to 10 years ago the number of conscripts was 18,000. Today the number is around 4,300 to 4,500. The decline is very marked. The result of the volunteer program begun last year has not been bad but it did not meet our expectations... There was a good level of candidates but once these had their medical checkups the number fell from just over 700 to just over 500. But then something unforeseen occurred: As the candidates were about to be sent to their units, the Monte Caseros (Army mutiny) problem arose. It was natural for many who thought there was going to be a war to have second thoughts. The number who made it to their units was 300.. we found some things that needed correcting in initial training so as not to scare them with the

demands of military life because that too led to an exodus in the first days. Now we're around 100 volunteers, but the small quantity is compensated by the extraordinary quality.

HERALD: Does the Navy need to return to its previous troop strength?

Arosa: I don't think that's necessary. The number of conscripts has to be adjusted a bit...but if the volunteer program works, as we think it will, that would solve an important problem and mean that the number of conscripts would not have to be increased greatly.

HERALD: Are military salaries adequate if you consider that many officers have to take a second job, when that is unthinkable in countries like the United States, England or West Germany?

Arosa: Sometimes we have to go by reality. It's not adequate but when one looks at it from the viewpoint of the country's situation there is not sufficient capacity to meet the salary level which one might consider reasonably just... Officers accept this as a necessary evil.

HERALD: It is true that 40 percent of the Navy's air wings have been grounded due to a lack of spare parts?

Arosa: Yes, that could be (the figure). I cannot confirm whether its 30, 35 or 40 percent but part is out of service not because it cannot operate but because it has been taken out in light of the parts problem and to preserve (the aircraft) and not to incur more costs.

HERALD: Has Argentina's naval presence increased in the south after the Malvinas conflict?

Arosa: Certainly yes and the reason is the improved operating capacity provided by the incorporation of new naval materiel. Since 1982, the Navy's presence in the South Atlantic has improved with respect to its potential efficiency. Quantitatively, though, due to the well-known economic restrictions, the miles/hours navigated and maritime traffic control flights have not increased.

HERALD: Have there been any near conflicts with Chile around the Beagle Channel in the last three years? Are there contacts between the two navies?

Arosa: Absolutely no danger of conflict. The visits by Chilean ships to Ushuaia and ours to Punta Arenas and Williams are more and more frequent, as are the exchange programs between officers. Co-operation issues are given more priority than those dealing with conflict.

HERALD: What is the Navy's position on the recent Air Force report proposing an air-based defense strategy?

Arosa: We're going to study it; I haven't read it and I like to make an opinion when I know about something. I believe it is an Air Force view which, if it eventually is taken into account in the future evolution of the military, must go through the joint chiefs of staff, be analyzed, debated, enriched in as much as possible and eventually it must be confronted with the views the other forces may have.

HERALD: What is the status of Navy Captain Alfredo Astiz?

Arosa: There has been no change. He is where he should be, coming up for promotion, and an evaluation will be made when he goes before the promotion board... In spring there will surely be a board review which evaluates his performance.

HERALD: Is the "Hercules" destroyer being offered for sale because the Navy cannot purchase spare parts for the British-built frigate?

Arosa: In part yes, in part because it is the oldest unit within the fleet.

HERALD: How interested is Brazil in buying the destroyer?

Arosa: Brazil has shown interest but it also has its economic problems to deal with.

HERALD: Will you discuss the US decision to block the sale of aircraft from Israel during your August trip to the US?

Arosa: That was an official invitation made by the US Navy, it has no other connotation. I don't think it will be discussed because that is not a US Navy matter, the problem is a political decision.

HERALD: Will the Navy participate in the next "Unitas" exercises sponsored by the US Navy?

Arosa: The decision to participate in joint exercises with the navies of other countries is a political decision outside the Navy's sphere. The Navy's position is to promote these exercises which offer the opportunity to practice tactics reserved for teaching nations. High technology makes this exchange necessary...to shut oneself in and remain isolated is not conceivable today... Not only do we wish to carry out exercises with the US Navy but this year marks the tenth anniversary of "Fraterno" exercises with Brazil's Navy.

Peru Embassy on 'Twisted' Garcia Speech Report

PY0707013388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1930 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Jul (NA)—Today diplomatic sources disclosed that the Peruvian Embassy has described a journalistic report on a recently delivered speech in Ayacucho by Peruvian President Alan Garcia in which he addressed the foreign debt problem as a "twisted report" on the thinking of the President Garcia.

According to the sources, the position of the Peruvian Government has been summarized in a note issued by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry. The note was delivered to the Argentine Foreign Ministry by the Peruvian Ambassador to Argentina, Alfonso Grados Bertorini.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo disclosed that the Argentine Embassy in Peru is investigating the correctness of a report stating that Garcia has accused Argentina of "abandoning" its solidarity with Peru concerning the foreign debt issue.

According to the diplomatic sources, in the note delivered to Buenos Aires the Peruvian Foreign Ministry has made it clear that "the presentation of the secretly taped statement was done in a fragmentary and even incorrect way, thus giving a twisted report on the thinking of President Alan Garcia."

According to reliable sources, the note was delivered by Ambassador Grados Bertorini to Alberto Ferrari Etcheverry, the Foreign Ministry under secretary for Latin American affairs.

Argentine Foreign Ministry sources have pointed out that the [words indistinct] has been cleared with the official note of the Peruvian Government.

Concerning the Latin American governments, the note also states that the Peruvian Government rejects the report, as it is "fragmentary," and it deplores that the report is being used in an attempt to break the cordial, balanced, and respectful relations that Peru maintains with the Latin American nations.

The official Peruvian note concludes by stating: "This manipulation is clearly aimed at preventing Latin American peoples and nations from reaching agreement and rapprochement."

Bolivia

Foreign Ministry Condemns Iran Plane Downing

PY0607125788 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The government has exhorted the countries to overcome the Persian Gulf conflict and has condemned the death of more than 200 people in the Iranian plane incident.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry has issued a communique stating the national government's official position regarding the incident and proposing a cease-fire.

The communique states: In the face of the downing of a commercial airplane belonging to an airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Diplomatic Information Directorate of the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship expresses its condemnation of this unfortunate incident in which a U.S. warship shot the aforementioned airplane in the Persian Gulf.

This action took place at a time when there is a crisis on the planet as well as a war that is spilling the blood of the people of Iran and Iraq, where there is a large military concentration and confusion as a result of political hatred and pressures sponsored by the great world powers.

The communique concludes by saying: Once again, the Bolivian Government exhorts the world to find a solution to the Persian Gulf conflict within the framework of civilized and rational negotiations sponsored by the United Nations.

Chamber of Deputies Approves Coca Law

PY0607160388 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Law on Coca Production approved today at 0345 by the Chamber of Deputies, 48,000 hectares of coca crops will be replaced by other crops in the upcoming 7 years with the support of international financing.

The chapter pertaining to controlled substances will be analyzed by Congress today. The Chamber of Deputies has also decided to keep 12,000 hectares of land for the traditional cultivation of coca leaves. Congress has also forbidden the use of herbicides to eradicate coca crops.

The chapter on controlled substances will be discussed in Congress today after the alternative development under secretariat gives the government and the MNR-ADN coalition an alternative draft bill on controlled substances which will represent the government's last word on this controversial issue.

After a long debate, and under leftist opposition pressure, the Chamber of Deputies approved a regulation forbidding the eradication of coca plantations with chemicals, herbicides, or biological and defoliating agents. Only manual and mechanical methods will be used for eradication.

The Law on Coca Production was approved today at dawn after 12 hours of debate. The law also establishes that not more than 12,000 hectares of coca may be planted to meet the demand of traditional consumption.

The surplus coca crops will be replaced and eradicated at an initial rate of 5,000 hectares per year and increased to 8,000 hectares per year. This program will be carried out with financial aid that, according to Agriculture Minister Guillermo Justiniano, already amounts to $130 million.

Article 4 establishes that the only legal means by which coca leaves can be consumed and used are for chewing, as medicine, and in rituals in keeping with the social and cultural practices of the Bolivian people.

Another article declares the production of cocaine base, sulfate, and hydrochloride, as well as any other controlled substances, as illegal.

Article 9 states that the traditional coca production area will be restricted to where it had been historically, socially, and ecologically cultivated for traditional purposes. This area is located in the current small farms area of the subtropical region of north and south Yungas, Murillo, Munecas, Franz Tamayo, and Inquicivi Provinces of La Paz Department, and the Yungas Vandiola areas of Carrasco and Tiriqui Provinces in Cochabamba Department.

The law states that the production, transportation, and sale of coca leaves will be controlled by the government through an executive branch office, and special regulations for these activities will be issued within the framework of this law.

Article 18 states that production, reduction, and substitution of coca crops must follow ecological preservation regulations specified in the environment law and all other laws that regulate agricultural activities.

The executive branch will establish regulations for the legal markets and for wholesale trade to ensure the legal use of coca leaves.

A National Alternative Development Fund [Fondo Nacional de Desarrollo Alternativo] will be created to finance the programs of alternative development and substitution of coca crops. The funds for this organization will come from the national budget and bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation.

This law, which has four transition articles, will undergo a revision session today and be passed to the Senate afterward.

Deputy Gonzalo Valda [of the Movement of the Revolutionary left—MIR] revealed some of the contents—which had remained concealed for about 1 and ½ years—of the notes and the annexes of the 3-year plan signed by Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal and the U.S. Government.

According to the MIR deputy, Bolivia had promised to declare all the coca crops in country illegal, except for the La Paz Yungas region, where only 10,000 tons of coca production would be authorized.

Coca Growers March To Protest Tunari Incident

PY0607225788 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Report by Oscar Ordonez from Cochabamba]

[Text] Coca growers have staged a march in Cochabamba to protest the Villa Tunari incident.

Nearly 2,000 coca growers of the Chapare, Carrasco, and Yungas del Chapare peasant federation staged a protest march on 5 July at 1600. After marching through Cochabamba's main streets, the peasants gathered on the grounds of the University of San Simon.

The main speakers condemned UMOPAR actions in the Chapare region and supported a decision to ask the government to give special (?treatment) to the coca issue.

In addition, the speakers rejected a legislative decision to include the provinces of Chapare, Carrasco, and (Pirache) as coca-producing zones in transition.

In conclusion, the speakers asked that the North Americans leave the Cochabamba tropical zones.

The march was completely peaceful. The peasants and the authorities remained calm. No incidents were reported.

Brazil

Iranian Envoy Warns of Possible Attack

PY0607151288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1453 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Brasilia, 6 Jul (EFE)—Iranian Ambassador to Brazil Muhmud Movahedi has stated that the possibility of attacks against U.S. companies in Brazil in reprisal for the U.S. attack against an Iranian Airbus A-300 has not been ruled out.

According to a report published in today's issue of TRIBUNA DA IMPRENSA, Movahedi indicated that the decision on how to fight the United States, and the date that it will begin, are to be decided by his country's leaders, although he pointed out that Iran will take into consideration Brazil's tradition of peace.

The Iranian ambassador added that the United States is illegally occupying the Persian Gulf and the UN's Security Council is doing nothing to stop it.

Movahedi, 35, who has been ambassador to Brazil for 11 months now, also warned that his country's military actions against U.S. objectives could be carried out in Brazil or any other place in the world.

Police Up Embassy 'Attention'

PY0607235788 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jul 88 p 10

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday the Rio Branco unit of the Federal District military police, which is in charge of providing police surveillance to the embassies in Brasilia, began to give special attention to the Iranian and U.S. Embassies, which are 6 km away from each other. Lieutenant Pablo Henrique Azevedo, who is the chief of operations of the unit, explained that 137 men, who are divided into three shifts, are on alert and can reach either of the two embassies in 30 seconds, if necessary.

Security measures at the U.S. Embassy, which have always been strict, apparently have not been changed, and the number of guards remains the same. The embassy refused to supply information on the grounds it is an internal security matter.

At the Iranian Embassy, however, security measures are a lot less strict than at the U.S. Embassy, and they seem to be limited to a big iron gate.

According to Iranian Embassy staffer Said Kazemzadeh Darban, the surveillance provided by the Rio Branco unit is normal and "essential," owing to the large number of holdups that have occurred in the area.

Lieutenant Azevedo said that the U.S. and the Iranian Embassies will receive special attention as long as there is a crisis between the two countries.

Nobrega Seeks Support for Economic Program

PY0607233488 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jul 88 p A-23

[By Armando Ourique, FOLHA correspondent in Japan]

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has revealed that yesterday he obtained the Japanese Government's support for Brazil in its negotiations with the creditor governments that are members of the Bank for International Settlement [BIS]. This negotiation will be aimed at getting a $500-million bridge loan from those governments. Minister Nobrega said this bridge loan will be necessary for Brazil to pay $1.6 billion in interest, which is owed for June and will fall due in July, to private creditor banks.

Minister Nobrega also said the "reception" given him yesterday by Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and other Japanese Government officials "was better than expected." He affirmed that the Japanese Government pledged its support on four [as published] points that will help in Brazil's efforts to normalize relations with the international financial community. According to Minister Nobrega, those points are:

1) approval of the economic adjustment program by the IMF Directors Council; 2) negotiation of an agreement with the Paris Club (which represents official agencies that provide financing for creditor countries' exports); and 3) negotiation of a $500-million bridge loan from the Nakasone Fund by the Japanese Government. [passage omitted]

Minister Nobrega said the Japanese Government demonstrated willingness to study a list of 19 projects that Brazil presented a month ago to qualify for loans from the Nakasone Fund. However, he said, the Japanese Government will only be in a position to decide on the Brazilian request once the agreement with the Paris Club is concluded. [passage omitted]

The Brazilian finance minister affirmed that the IMF Directors Council can approve Brazil's economic adjustment program regardless of adherence to the debt rescheduling agreement signed on 22 June with the Creditor Banks Advisory Committee by the 90 percent of creditor banks required for final approval of this rescheduling agreement. This percentage is known as the "critical mass." Minister Nobrega affirmed that the "critical mass" is only required for the IMF to authorize the first disbursement. He added that normally the whole process is completed 15 days after the approval of an economic program by the IMF Directors Council. [passage omitted]

Minister Nobrega emphasized that the Japanese Government's willingness to support Brazil's efforts demonstrates that "the normalization Brazil is pursuing is producing good results." As an example, the Brazilian minister cited the case of a Japanese Government official, whose name he did not want to reveal, who praised President Sarney's determination to adopt necessary measures and to support the economic program recommended by the planning minister and the finance minister.

Minister Nobrega said that yesterday he had to verify that "the Japanese Government official are beginning to understand the economic difficulties Brazil is experiencing and are impressed by the efforts its government is making to adjust the country's economy."

The Brazilian finance minister, who will return to Brazil on Thursday, said he had decided to begin contacts aimed at the normalization of relations with the international financial community in Japan "because of Japan's great importance as a political partner, the resentment raised in Japan by the Brazilian moratorium, the Nakasone Fund resources being offered to indebted countries, and the strong economic and cultural bonds between the two countries." Finally, Minister Nobrega said that late next week he will begin a tour through Great Britain, the FRG, France, Italy, and Canada to seek support for the issues he raised in Japan. [passage omitted]

Japan Pledges Support

PY0607153788 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega said in Tokyo that the solution to the foreign debt problem lies in cooperation between debtor countries and the international financial community.

Nobrega also said in Tokyo, where he is meeting with Japanese bankers and economists to obtain support for the Brazilian economic policy, that Brazil's medium-term objective is to create the basis for a modern and more effective economy for the next decade. Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has said his government will fully support the Brazilian economic program.

Mailson da Nobrega also intends to meet with the Paris Club this month (in an attempt) to expand Brazilian sources of financing.

Chaves To Resign Ministry, Announce Candidacy

PY0607211288 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jul 88 p 4

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves will submit his resignation and will officially announce his candidacy for the Presidency on the day in which the new constitution is approved. This decision was reported yesterday by Jose Lourenco, chairman of the PFL bloc in the house. Up until now, Aureliano had refused to confirm his candidacy.

According to PFL members, the reason for this early announcement of Chaves' candidacy is to prevent division within the PFL, in view of the growth of the dissident sector led by Senator Marco Maciel, who may try to run for vice president on former Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola's ticket, if he, Maciel, leaves the PFL.

Party members have said that the departure of Maciel will leave the PFL under the control of Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, adding that the candidacy of Aureliano would then have to be renegotiated within the party. Magalhaes has been working for the candidacy of Sao Paulo prefect Janio Quadros, because Magalhaes wants to run for vice president on Janio Quadros' ticket.

Chile

Merino Rejects Entry of Plebiscite Observers

PY0607032488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, Navy commander in chief and Government Junta member, has said that he could not care less about a unanimous decision by the European Parliament to send observer-inspectors to the upcoming plebiscite. He also made it clear that the executive branch has full power to prevent such observers from entering Chile.

I firmly reject those who intend to come and check on what an independent and sovereign country like Chile is doing, he stressed.

[Begin recording] [Merino] Concerning the opinion of the European Parliament of our government's performance, I could not care less. I would bring them here to see what Chile looks like now, and then show them what it looked like in 1973 by showing them films.

Concerning the second point, if they want to come here to observe, to check or to somehow act as inspectors of the way we conduct the plebiscite, we simply will not allow them to enter the country. They will not get in. They will be disappointed.

[Reporter] Does this mean that they will not be able to enter the country if they try to do so, and that the government will take some sort of action in this regard, Admiral?

[Merino] If it is decided that they will not be allowed to enter the country, the executive branch will be free to prevent them from entering Chile.

[Reporter] Do you support the idea of not allowing the entry of international observers, of those who come as such?

[Merino] I firmly reject anyone who comes to check on what we are doing as an independent, sovereign, and unique country because nothing that has been done here in Chile and nothing that will be done is, will be, or can be a reason for doubting the cleanness and honesty of the public action being implemented. [end recording]

The Government Junta member made these remarks after chairing a legislative session at the Diego Portales Building.

Episcopal Conference Official on Plebiscite

PY0707002588 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Msgr Sergio Contreras Navia, secretary of the Episcopal Conference, has said the upcoming plebiscite will show whether Chileans are ready to stop being a mass and become people.

Msgr Contreras addressed the Latin American press workers meeting in Santiago. The main topics at this event were the rights and liberties of mankind, workers and their associations, and the people. [passage omitted]

Msgr Contreras also referred to the rights of the workers and the people and to the upcoming plebiscite in Chile.

[Begin Contreras recording] When I am asked about the upcoming plebiscite, I answer that basically it will show whether Chileans are ready to stop being a mass and become people. People are those who are conscious of what they are doing, those who have awareness and, as a consequence, knowledge and freedom to express what they want for their future. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ex-Foreign Minister Valdez Criticizes Regime

PY0507192588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0414 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Santiago, 4 Jul (EFE)—Today over a Chilean television hookup Gabriel Valdez, former Chilean foreign minister and former Christian Democratic party chairman, said that Chile's "foremost extremist" is President General Augusto Pinochet, who heads a "brutal dictatorship."

Valdes made this statement during a television program broadcast by Catholic University Channel 13. During the "De Cara al Pais" [Facing the Country] program, which is the only Chilean pluralist program, Valdez was interviewed by Pinochet's adviser, Jaime Guzman.

Valdez told an estimated audience of 1.5 million: "This brutal dictatorship has staged abroad such terrorist acts as the murders of Chilean Army General Carlos Pratts

(Buenos Aires, 1974), of former Socialist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier (Washington, 1976), and of Bernardo Leighton, member of the Christian Democratic Party (Rome, 1975)."

Valdes added: "These murders were committed by Chilean people, with passports issued here (in Santiago, Chile), and Pinochet has made no objections."

Valdes interviewer Jaime Guzman, who is an adviser to the military regime, said the ousting in 1973 of Socialist President Salvador Allende "was a legal act of the Armed Forces, which cannot be condemned."

Discussing the current position of Chilean Communists, who do not reject the possibility of using violence to oust the military regime, Valdes said: "We cannot forget that the Communist Party advocates violence because the Republic's foremost extremist is Gen Pinochet."

Valdes added: "Extremism pervades the lives of us all because Chile is going through abnormal times."

Guzman insisted on the need to proscribe the Comunist Party, which is currently considered unconstitutional, "because the number of Communists increases whenever the party becomes legal."

Guzman, who was one of the drafters of the 1980 Constitution, said: "General Pinochet is the most likely person to govern the country during the next presidential term. He is our best candidate."

According to the Constitution, the Navy, Air Force, and Army commanders in chief (Pinochet himself is the Army commander in chief), and the Carabineros director must nominate a single presidential candidate for the plebiscite, which will be held before the end of the year.

PCCh Document on Party Stand on Future of CUT
PY0707011688 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Jun 88 p 65

[Text] A detailed document drawn up by members of the Communist Party maintains that the future Sole Central Organization of Workers (CUT) "in essence should be classist, always guided by the principle of the struggle of classes" and at the same time asserts that "capitalism stems from social injustice and misery."

The 14-page document summarizes the PCCh's stance regarding the creation of CUT. The organization is currently being discussed by the labor union leadership and especially by the commissions in charge of preparing the congress during which CUT will be created. The congress is scheduled for next 13-14 August.

After an introdution the document carries the text entitled "Toward a Powerful Sole Central Organization, for the Defense of the Workers' Interests, Against the Dictatorship, and for Freedom, Justice, and Democracy." It is divided into six chapters and a conclusion. The chapters are entitled: "The New Central Organization and Its Creation Process," "What We Think About the Previous Process," "Its Organic Structure," "The Principles of the New Central Organization," "Its program," and "The Workers Rights."

Regarding what the PCCh believes CUT's principles should be, the document says: "In essence it should be classist, always guided by the principle of the struggle of classes; that is, it must assume its mission to defend the workers rights, to struggle for their immediate needs, to establish as a goal the elimination of the exploitation of men by men, and to strive for a more just society." The PCCh also believes that CUT must be democratic, pluralist, representative, national, humanist, and international.

The PCCh believes that CUT should be independent and autonomous and that the workers have the right to participate in politics. "We defend the rights of labor unions and social leaders to engage in political activities. CUT is not politically uncommitted, but it maintains its autonomy regarding political parties," states the document.

Referring to the origin of these principles, the document states that CUT "must struggle for its right to organize itself free of restrictions, in a way that breaks from the laws currently in force, from the labor program, from the labor codes, from ad-hoc decrees, and so forth. In other words, it must represent a defeat for the dictatorship. Every organization created by the workers is legitimate when it is designed to defend their demands and rights, regardless of their legal status or the regulations that the dictatorship has sought to impose."

The document adds that CUT must represent a political and ideological struggle that we must win against the attempt of the imperialists, the bourgeoisie, and the dictatorship to impose on us their ideology through ideological unions, parallel labor unions, and exclusions—in sum, to struggle against indifference toward the problems of labor."

Further on the document "rejects" the "proportional distribution system" for the election of the CUT National Council, adding, however, that we must not dismiss the possibility of reaching political agreements, taking into account each force or sector, for the number of leaders to be elected and the posts to be held."

The document also asserts that capitalism "stems from social injustice and the misery that oppresses the national majority." It states that the "exploiters base much of their future expectations for the perpetuation of the fascist regime on the break up and organic dispersion of the labor union movement, the stagnation and ideological confusion of the working class, the conciliation and opportunism that may affect the labor sector, and the division of the democratic forces." According to the

PCCh, the existence of parallel government-appointed labor unions and of ideological labor unions, among which is the Workers Democratic Union, CDT, are a sign of these intentions.

Judge Looks at Ties Between PCCh, FPMR

PY0607231588 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Jun 88 pp A-1, C-4

[Excerpts] Military Judge Fernando Torres has said the links between the PCCh and the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] reveal that the PCCh's only objective is to begin a civil war in Chile and that its decision to support the no vote at the plebiscite is a diversionary tactic aimed at preventing its possible isolation.

"Proof of this is the weapons smuggling, murders, and other actions of the FPMR, which, as everyone knows, is the PCCh's armed branch. The call to support the no vote is a screen being used to fulfill its objective, which is to promote a fratricidal struggle in the country," he said.

In an interview with EL MERCURIO, Torres said he is hearing four cases involving FPMR national and regional leaders and "combatants" of the Communist Youth. Torres specifically referred to the political aspects of the cases he is investigating.

Torres said all Chileans have repudiated the PCCh, which "has promoted terrorism at the national and world levels," and which is responsible for—among other actions—the attempt on President Pinochet's life and the abduction of Commander Carreno.

The judge described the creation of the FPMR, its internal division, and the ideological indoctrination work it has undertaken among the people. [passage omitted]

Concerning the "revolution of the FPMR commander," which took place in Cuba at the end of 1987 and which resulted in a division of the FPMR into a Castroist faction and a pro-Soviet faction, Torres said: "The FPMR, which was engaged only in military actions (violent, armed struggle), realized that its failures outnumbered its successes. The PCCh was also criticized, and this had political effects, because it made it impossible for the PCCh to form alliances with other leftist parties, some of which are allegedly democratic."

Torres added that "the PCCh tried to isolate itself from the FPMR and to move away—from a tactical viewpoint—from this organization. The PCCh, however, suddenly realized that its 'baby' had grown too much. This led to a family crisis, in which some are openly in favor of the pro-Soviet PCCh course (a political-military approach), while others support the military approach. The military approach seeks to promote total subversion and to render Chile into an ungovernable country through armed methods."

Torres stressed that up until 1986 the FPMR followed a "single course" in which arsenals were smuggled into Chile for the urban guerrillas and for armed confrontation. "This dream was frustrated in Carrizal Bajo and turned into a nightmare with the failure of the attempt on the president's life. The FPMR, which had overestimated itself, saw things for what they really are," he added.

The judge said this led to a split between a sector that wants to wait "until the enemy makes a mistake, and the belligerent youths, who want to accelerate the process. This is the current situation within the FPMR."

Despite this division, Torres noted, both factions maintain links with the PCCh. "The pro-Soviet or political-military faction is trying to make the rank-and-file, the various sectors, and the population realize that it is necessary to organize the defense. I say they are trying because I am not sure whether they have already fulfilled their objective. This is what they are doing, but we have not yet seen the results," he said. [passage omitted]

Socialist Party Official Secretly Returns

PY0707002188 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Jun 88 p c2

[By Arturo Villalobos]

[Text] Valdivia—Yesterday Uldaricio Figueroa Valdivia, former regional secretary of the Socialist Party during the time of the Popular Unity [UP], who is accused of participation in the so-called "Z Plan," returned secretly to the country and showed up with a lawyer at the Valdivia appellate court.

Figueroa Valdivia returned to the country on Sunday night through the Carirrine Andean crossing point in Valdivia Province, 70 km from this city. According to his own report to the court, from Carirrine he went to Liquine, then to Panguipulli, Los Lagos, and Osorno, and finally to Valdivia.

Figueroa Valdivia presented himself before the court at 1400 together with his lawyer Oscar Alvarez. After 20 minutes of testimony, the court judges held a meeting and designated Dario Carretta as special prosecutor to investigate the case. At 1900 Carretta granted Figueroa Valdivia's freedom due to the lack of evidence against him.

The former UP militant, who is separated from his wife, has two children who are currently studying in Europe. Only 10 days after the 11 September 1973 military uprising, Figueroa Valdivia was detained while hiding in a sector of Pishuinco, 25 km from Valdivia. He was accused of participating in the "Z Plan." The Valdivia War Council sentenced him to death; the sentence was later changed to life imprisonment, and then to banishment. As a result of this last sentence, in December 1975 he was expelled to Romania, where he lived for 2 years before going to the GDR, where he worked as an electromechanical worker.

Colombia

M-19 Leader, Former Minister Meet in Panama

PA0607184488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] This morning former Colombian Conservative Party Minister Alvaro Leyva Duran and M-19 Leader Antonio Navarro Wolf met in Panama to talk about Alvaro Gomez Hurtado's release.

It was learned that the M-19 accepted the decision of the Colombian political parties to begin a dialogue with the guerilla movement.

M-19 on Government Stand

PA0607235188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2138 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Panama City, 6 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—In response to the Colombian authorities' refusal to agree to have intermediaries negotiate the release of Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, today the M-19 said in this capital that "the government does not appear to be a reliable negotiator."

The reply was made in a hand-written statement delivered by M-19 leader Antonio Navarro Wolff to Senator Alvaro Leyva, a member of Colombia's Conservative Party, in a Panama City cafeteria in the presence of two newsmen.

In the note, the M-19 leader describes as "evasive and confusing" the position maintained by the government with regard to negotiations to release Alvaro Gomez, a former Conservative Party presidential candidate whom the guerrilla group has been holding hostage since 29 May.

Navarro Wolff said that Colombian Government Minister Cesar Gaviria, after expressing the executive's willingness to make certain concessions, "responded evasively and demanded that we name a single spokesman" and used "aggressive, belligerent terms" in reply to a "proposal for national reconciliation," which was presented to him by M-19 Commanding General Carlos Pizarro.

The guerrilla leader added that the M-19 will only talk with the government "if it assumes a coherent position and shows a willingness to achieve peace." He added that the only topic of the dialogue will be peace.

On Gaviria's visit to Cuba to make arrangements for what Gaviria described as a negotiation with people who could help to get Gomez released, Navarro said that the minister "knows perfectly well" how to contact Navarro abroad or Pizarro in Colombia.

However, he said that the M-19 accepts the kind help of Cuban President Fidel Castro and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, a 1982 Nobel laureate in literature.

"The government has continued striking out blindly, while the blows of war continue to be struck in the country," the guerrilla leader said in reference to two recent massacres: one in Meta, in which 17 peasants were killed, and the other in Boyaca, where 11 others were machinegunned.

Today Colombian Attorney General Horacio Serpa said that these massacres form part of a plan to exterminate political sectors, which is being carried out by a criminal organization supported by certain authorities, whom he did not identify.

Navarro Wolff urged the parties that said on Tuesday they are willing to hold a dialogue with guerrilla groups "for national salvation" to discuss the present situation "at a work table" so that Gomez Hurtado can return home promptly.

The ruling Liberal and New Liberal Parties and the Social Conservative Party said that they were willing to talk with the M-19 if Gomez Hurtado were released beforehand.

New Right-Wing Movement: Massacre 'Mistake'

PA0607170988 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] A new right-wing movement has admitted that it carried out the Meta massacre and that it was the result of an error. Not even divine protection helped the 17 people who died as a result of the ambush carried out this past weekend in an area between El Castillo and Granada, Meta Department.

The bodies of the 17 victims, including 4 minors, were buried today. Apparently they were attacked mistakenly by people who wanted to kill the mayor of El Castillo, Salvador Maso. Maso, a Patriotic Union militant, was not in the vehicle that was attacked.

In a communique issued today, the self-styled Fascist Red Army admitted that it carried out the massacre. This group has announced that it will wage war against the communists and members of seditious groups. The communique notes that the massacre was the result of a regrettable mistake.

Judicial organizations have initiated an investigation to find the people responsible for the attack.

Uruguay

Senate Statement on Downing of Iranian Plane

PY0607143288 Montevideo Radio El Espectador in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The Senate, during its first July session, approved a statement on the downing of the Iranian plane in the Persian Gulf. The text follows:

1. The Senate expresses its deepest distress regarding the death of innocent civilians who were the victims of a tragic military action.

2. It calls for a thorough investigation for the total clarification of the tragedy and the determination of responsibilities.

3. It shares and joins the Foreign Ministry's hope for a peaceful solution to the regional conflict, in accordance with the UN resolution.

4. It expresses its total and full solidarity with the Iranian people.